ANNUAL REPORT

THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE JUSTICE OF THE TRIAL COURT

1979

Arthur M. Mason
Chief Administrative Justice

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE JUSTICE
BOSTON, 02108

March 1, 1980

Honorable Edward F. Hennessey, Chief Justice
Supreme Judicial Court
1300 New Court House
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

Dear Chief Justice Hennessey:

Submitted herewith is a report of the activities of the Trial Court of the Commonwealth for the calendar year 1979. The report is offered in compliance with the provisions of General Laws, Chapter 211B, Section 9.

The year 1979 marked the first full year of operation of the Trial Court established under the provisions of the Court Reorganization Act. This report reflects some of the accomplishments achieved by the Trial Court Departments and the Office of the Chief Administrative Justice during this period. It must be recognized, however, that no report can accurately reflect the hard work, diligence and support that the Administrative Justices and all other judicial and non-judicial personnel of the Trial Court have contributed to this effort.

Although it may be premature to evaluate the Trial Court after only one full year of operation, a perusal of this report will indicate movement forward in the implementation of many provisions of the Court Reorganization Legislation. Improvements in financial management, personnel administration, caseflow management, educational programs, and resource use and allocation attest to the benefits of the many constructive changes which have occurred to date. Although adjustments and accommodations have been necessary, a better understanding of the advantages of the system is gradually being realized.

Your support of the efforts of the Trial Court to promote the most efficient administration of the judicial system, and the support of the Justices of the Supreme Judicial Court is most appreciated. Your continued concern will greatly assist us in our efforts to achieve the highest quality of justice for the people of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Sincerely,

Arthur M. Mason

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Chief Administrative Justice

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Introduction

The Second Annual Report of the Chief Administrative Justice of the Trial Court is prepared pursuant to the provisions of General Laws, Chapter 211B, Section 9. It is intended to summarize the operation of the Trial Court during the period of January 1, 1979 through December 31, 1979 and to describe certain ongoing activities of the Administrative Offices of the Trial Court Departments, the Office of the Commissioner of Probation and the Office of the Chief Administrative Justice.

On December 31, 1979, the Trial Court, established under the Court Reorganization Act (St. 1978, C. 478), completed its first full year of operations. During the year, substantial progress was made in the implementation of many of the provisions of the Court Reorganization Legislation.

The Trial Court of the Commonwealth represents a consolidation of the several courts of trial jurisdiction into a single administrative unit composed of seven Departments. The provisions of the Court Reorganization Act established a framework for the maximum utilization of resources within the Trial Court, and during 1979 the Chief Administrative Justice employed those powers contained in the Act which allow for flexibility and efficiency in resource use.

An important method for achieving optimum resource allocation within the Trial Court is found in the provisions of the Court Reorganization Act which authorize the Chief Administrative Justice to reassign justices among the various Departments of the Trial Court. This provision constitutes a unique mechanism for promoting the efficient administration of the judicial system by providing a broader availability of judicial personnel in order to recognize the needs of the respective Trial Court Departments.

During 1979, the Chief Administrative Justice employed this reassignment provision on 181 occasions, thereby assisting the speedy dispatch of judicial business by meeting needs in one Department with the available judicial resources of another.

In addition to authorizing judicial reassignments, the Court Reorganization Act provided for the assignment, by the Chief Administrative Justice, of non-judicial personnel among the various Departments and Divisions of the Trial Court on an "as needed" basis. This provision was also implemented by the Chief Administrative Justice in 1979, during which year 333 reassignments of non-judicial personnel were made. These reassignments consisted of the transfer of probation officers, clerical support staff and court officers to assist at the jury-of-six sessions held in the Boston Municipal and District Court Departments.

Another provision of the Court Reorganization Act employed by the Chief Administrative Justice in 1979 to further the administration of judicial business relates to the recall of retired justices. Under the Act those retired justices who so desire may become eligible, during renewable two year periods, to receive successive 90-day assignments from the Chief Administrative Justice. During the past year, the Chief Administrative Justice has assigned 15 retired justices, intermittently, to sit in various Departments of the Trial Court, thereby making valuable additional judicial resources available to the Departments.

In addition to efforts to achieve efficient use of Trial Court personnel, efforts to achieve maximum use of other Trial Court resources were also made during 1979. Under the Court Reorganization Act, the Office of the Chief Administrative Justice has assumed fiscal responsibility for the county law libraries. In order to assist the Chief Administrative Justice in making determinations relative to the law libraries, a Committee on Law Libraries has been established to study current library resources and procedures and to formulate recommendations on fiscal, policy and administrative

matters relating to the law libraries. Pursuant to its mandate, the Committee has undertaken a survey of library procedures, policies and resources. The information obtained from this survey will assist in the establishment of system-wide standards for operations and acquisitions.

The activities described above illustrate some of the efforts made during 1979 to implement the provisions of the Court Reorganization Act and its intent to provide for "a broader availability of personnel and other resources" within the Trial Court. The issuance of Administrative Directives by the Chief Administrative Justice which establish uniform policies and practices for implementation in the Departments of the Trial Court constitutes an additional effort to promote effective administration within the Trial Court.

The following sections of the Report describe certain other functions of the Office of the Chief Administrative Justice, as well as the operations of the Administrative Offices of the Trial Court Departments and the Office of the Commissioner of Probation. Statistical data on caseflow within the Departments of the Trial Court are also presented. Additional information on any of these matters may be obtained by contacting either the appropriate Department Administrative Office or the Office of the Chief Administrative Justice.

Office of the Chief Administrative Justice

During 1979, the Office of the Chief Administrative Justice took steps to implement the mandates of the Court Reorganization legislation. The Office, which acts as the administrative office for the Commonwealth's courts, is organized on a departmental basis, each department being responsible for the practical application of programs developed to meet the goals established by the Court Reorganization Legislation as well as the needs of the Trial Court and the citizens of the Commonwealth.

PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT

The Chief Administrative Justice is designated as the employer of the personnel in the Divisions and Departments of the Trial Court. The Court Reorganization Legislation mandated that, exclusive of those employees covered by collective bargaining agreements, adequate compensation levels for employees be set by the Chief Administrative Justice. To accomplish this task, the Office, in conjunction with Arthur Young and Company, completed a comprehensive Classification/Wage Compensation study of all Trial Court employees. The study has provided the Trial Court Personnel Department with a complete listing of all position titles in the Trial Court, detailed job descriptions for each title, and a single salary structure to replace the 14 separate county payroll systems which covered court employees prior to the passage of the Legislation.

The study involved the distribution of approximately 4,200 questionnaires to Trial Court employees of which 3,519 were returned completed, representing an 84% response rate.

After the data included on the questionnaires had been collected and analyzed, selected Trial Court employees were interviewed in order to verify the information on the questionnaires and to provide on-site supplementary information. Individual interviews were conducted with representatives of each Trial Court Department. The sites chosen were selected on the basis of size, -- one large, one average and one small division of each department.

Proposed position descriptions were developed from the information extracted from the questionnaires and the interviews. The proposed descriptions were then distributed to supervisory personnel for review. After review, a salary structure was devised based on information provided by various agencies including the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor and the Executive Branch of the Commonwealth.

The proposed salary structure was designed as a first step in achieving a fair compensation level for Trial Court employees. The system is currently being reviewed and updated as suggestions for improvements are received.

In addition to the Classification/Wage Compensation program, the Personnel Department was also involved in the development of an Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Action Plan for the Trial Court for implementation by the various Departments and Divisions in all phases of hiring. The Trial Court Affirmative Action Office, a division of the Personnel Department is charged with the task of coordinating the implementation of these procedures.

A Trial Court employment application form has been designed for completion by all position applicants and broad distribution of job postings is required in order to facilitate open recruitment throughout the Trial Court. Position descriptions and Affirmative Action distribution lists are made available to Trial Court divisions by the Personnel Department.

In order to expand the Trial Court's efforts in the area of Affirmative Action, a grant application was made to the Massachusetts Committee on Criminal Justice to fund the position of Affirmative Action Coordinator for the Trial Court. If funded, the duties of the Coordinator will include devising methods to insure compliance with the

Affirmative Action guidelines throughout the system.

The Personnel Department is currently involved in the production of a Trial Court Personnel Policies and Procedures Manual for distribution to Trial Court supervisory personnel during the first quarter of 1980.

EMPLOYEE RELATIONS

The Employee Relations Department was established to represent the Chief Administrative Justice in collective bargaining matters.

The first labor agreement in the history of the Judicial Branch was formally signed on August 21, 1979. The agreement is between the Chief Administrative Justice of the Trial Court and Local 254, Service Employees International Union, AFL-CIO and covers the three-year period from July 1, 1978 through June 30, 1981.

The non-managerial and non-confidential staff and clerical personnel employed by the judiciary participated in a representation election on March 1, 1979 and voted not to have union representation. It is anticipated that a second such election will be held in 1980.

The Employee Relations Department, along with its role in negotiating contracts, is responsible for implementing all union contracts and providing the Chief Administrative Justice with a monitoring capability.

EDUCATION

The Education Coordinator is responsible for coordinating and designing educational programs for the various Departments of the Trial Court.

During 1979 Departmental conferences were held for Superior and District Court Justices concerning the New Rules of Criminal Procedure. The Probate and Family Court Department also held a conference for its Justices which focused on such issues as adoption and irretrievable breakdown of marriages.

The Juvenile Court Department co-sponsored two conferences on child abuse and neglect. One was conducted for hospital administrators and was presented in conjunction with the Legislature's Committee on Health Care; the other was co-sponsored by the Massachusetts Chapter of the National Committee for the Prevention of Child Abuse.

Seminars on the new Rules of Criminal Procedure were held for Superior, District, Boston Municipal and Juvenile Court Clerks.

The Office of the Commissioner of Probation conducted management training programs for Chief and Assistant Chief Probation Officers as well as orientation programs for newly appointed Probation Officers. The Commissioner's Office has also sponsored training seminars concentrating on the concept of risk/need classification for probationers.

The Office of the Chief Administrative Justice sponsored a Court Officer Basic Training program, as a pilot program for Chief Court Officers-in-charge. The program was presented at the Worcester Police Training Academy.

In addition to these programs, workshops on the new Trial Court Fiscal System were held across the state to acquaint employees with the new procedure.

DATA PROCESSING DEPARTMENT

The Data Processing Department is involved in several projects designed to streamline throughout the Trial Court.

This Department is responsible for the implementation of a Court Case Management System (CCMS) for use in the Superior Court Department for criminal business. At present this system is operable in Norfolk County and is being implemented in both Middlesex and Worcester Counties.

Data Processing has assisted both the Personnel and Fiscal Affairs Department of the Office of the Chief Administrative Justice in computerizing personnel records and designing a budget monitoring system. A terminal has been installed in the Fiscal Affairs Department for the regular processing of budget information.

This Department is presently designing and programming a civil indexing system for the Boston

Municipal Court Department and the Middlesex Division of the Superior Court Department.

The Data Processing Department is assisting the Office of the Commissioner of Probation with the computerization of the Probation Central File and is working in cooperation with the State Department of Public Welfare on Child Support Enforcement in the Probate and District Courts.

FISCAL DEPARTMENT

The Fiscal Department is responsible for the payment of all Trial Court expenses and budgetary matters.

During 1979, the Fiscal Department devised and implemented a Fiscal Control System for the Trial Court. The system includes guidelines for the processing of payments of bills incurred by the Trial Court Divisions and Departments as well as a centralized payroll function.

The Fiscal Department acts as a liaison between the Trial Court Departments and Divisions and the State Comptroller's Office in processing bills for payment. The Department is responsible for reviewing the annual budget requests of the Trial Court Departments, analyzing the requests, and making funding recommendations to the Chief Administrative Justice for submission to the Supreme Judicial Court.

The Trial Court payroll system which is administered by the Fiscal Department was designed to centralize essential reporting and control while retaining, to the maximum extent possible, divisional or departmental responsibility for payroll processing.

As a second phase in the development of a Trial Court fiscal system, the department is currently involved in the design and implementation of a standardized accounting system. This system, along with the Fiscal Control System, was designed with the assistance of Touche Ross and Co.

LEGAL DEPARTMENT

The Legal Department provides assistance to the Chief Administrative Justice on a wide variety of matters. During 1979, the department reviewed the leases for the rental of courthouses and also reviewed all contracts entered into by the Chief Administrative Justice, including the contracts for the purchase of recordation equipment for courtrooms throughout the Commonwealth and for consulting services provided to the Fiscal Department and the Personnel Department and the contract for the Trial Court Facilities study.

The facilities study was undertaken by the department in response to one of the mandates of the Court Reorganization Legislation. The Chief Administrative Justice was charged by the Legislature with the responsibility of appointing a commission to report on the status of all buildings in the Commonwealth which are utilized by the Judicial branch. To assist the Commission, a study of these buildings was made. The study involved such areas as the inspection, inventory, description and evaluation of all court facilities; a determination of judicial space needs; an analysis of energy problems and security systems; a survey of prevailing rent and an assessment of the value of all buildings, and recommendations for the correction of building deficiencies.

The office was assisted in the facilities study by Prima Associates, Architects and Associated Designers and R.G. Vanderweil Engineers, Inc. who conducted on-site visits and made evaluations of the courthouses in the Commonwealth.

The data obtained from the study will be used as the basis of the report of the Commission which is to be submitted, no later than June 30, 1980, to the Chief Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court, the Governor and the Clerks of the House of Representatives and the Senate.

In addition to the above responsibilities, the legal department assists the Chief Administrative Justice in the formulation of rules and regulations concerning the administration of justice in the Trial Court and the writing of legal memoranda, opinions and Administrative Directives.

PLANNING AND OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT

The Planning and Operations Department of the Office of the Chief Administrative Justice has responsibility for the preparation of the Annual Plan for the Massachusetts Courts which is the document used to identify priority areas in court

administration for the ensuing year. The Plan is used as a guide for determining the allocation of Trial Court resources and for developing LEAA funding guidelines for the courts.

During the past year the Planning and Operations Department also completed a federal funds survey which inventoried the various federally funded programs and positions in the Trial Court.

The department was also responsible for the design and implementation of an inventory control system for the Trial Court. In addition, the Planning and Operations Department assisted the Fiscal and Personnel Departments in the development of their "Requests for Proposals" for the uniform systems implemented in these departments.

One of the major responsibilities of the department is the writing, reviewing and submission of federal grant applications. Applications from Trial Court Departments must be reviewed by this office prior to submission to the Judicial Planning Committee and the Massachusetts Committee On Criminal Justice.

During 1979, preparation for the design of an automated data collection system for the Trial Court was begun. The purpose of this system is to streamline the statistical collection process and institute uniform reporting techniques throughout the Trial Court.

This department also acts as the Public Information Office of the Trial Court and, as such, publishes a newsletter, The Trial Court Reporter; compiles and produces The Annual Report of the Chief Administrative Justice; operates a Speakers Bureau; and responds to requests for information from other departments and agencies.

The Trial Court

The District Court Department

The District Court Department is the largest Department of the Trial Court, with 155 Justices and approximately 2,400 Clerk-Magistrates, Chief Probation Officers, Probation Officers, and support staff working in its 69 Divisions. During the past year the Administrative Justice and the staff of the Administrative Office of this Department have been working to implement the provisions of the Court Reorganization Legislation in the Divisions of the District Court Department and to improve the administration of justice.

A major accomplishment during the past year has been the orderly and effective transfer of exclusive de novo jurisdiction in criminal cases to the District Court Department. All de novo appeals, as well as first instance jury trials within the jurisdiction of this Department, are now heard in District Court jury sessions in 16 locations.

The District Court Department began a major project to expand local court and school department efforts in the area of student law-related education. The purpose of this program is to expand students' knowledge of law and the courts and of the responsibilities of citizenship. The Administrative Office of the District Court Department is offering substantial technical assistance and materials to local schools and courts, and held five regional workshops for court and school personnel during 1979.

A joint task force of District Court Department and Registry of Motor Vehicle personnel designed and implemented new procedures to reduce clerical work in the Clerk-Magistrates' offices, ensure prompt transmission of motor vehicle abstracts to the Registry and speed up the process of revoking drivers' licenses in certain cases.

The decriminalized motor vehicle provisions of the Court Reorganization Act were implemented through the development of a "citation" system.

A task force of Justices and Clerk-Magistrates drafted rules for the use of Clerk-Magistrates in implementing their new quasi-judicial authority under the Court Reorganization Act. The rules are awaiting the approval of the Supreme Judicial Court.

Rules for summary process cases have been drafted by the District Court Committee on Civil Procedure. The rules are now being examined by the Supreme Judicial Court, and it is expected that uniform summary process rules will result.

During 1979, the number of sessions in some of the less urban Divisions of the District Court Department were reduced in order to make more Justices available to sit in locations which have more business.

Utilizing the five Regional Administrative Justices and the five Regional Administrators of the Department, the District Court Department has refined the process of assigning Justices among the Divisions to insure the availability of judicial manpower and to facilitate caseflow planning.

Also, standards of Judicial Practice in the area of mental health commitments have been completed and distributed along with 20 redrafted forms.

Other continuing projects in the District Court Department include work on Standards of Judicial Practice in the areas of small claims; care and protection proceedings; trials and probable cause hearings; caseflow management; and a Handbook on Alternative Sentencing which, when completed, will facilitate the use of community sentencing in the District Court Department.

The Boston Municipal Court Department

The Boston Municipal Court Department is the court of origin for most of the cases arising in downtown Boston. Included in its geographical jurisdiction are the downtown residential areas (Back Bay, Beacon Hill, South End, North End, the Waterfront) and virtually all of the city, county, state and federal government offices located in the city.

Because of the Boston Municipal Court Department's central location, it is among the busier Departments in the Commonwealth's court system, entering approximately 30,000 criminal complaints and an equal number of civil cases each year. In addition, the Boston Municipal Court Department is responsible for the processing of all parking tickets issued in downtown Boston.

During the past year, Clerk-Magistrates have begun hearing applications for criminal complaints, a practice which releases the Justices of the Department for other judicial duties. The Criminal Clerk's Office has also begun a re-evaluation of the parking ticket operation which is expected to result in increased efficiency in summonsing and collections.

The Boston Municipal Court Department has the responsibility for hearing all jury-of-six matters originating either within the Department or in one of the seven Divisions of the District Court Department located in metropolitan Boston.

Both the Civil Clerk's Office and the Criminal Clerk's Office have investigated the application of automated data processing in their departments. A civil case indexing system should be implemented in the Civil Clerk's Office during the first quarter of 1980.

The Probation Office of the Boston Municipal Court Department has been actively pursuing grant money for the modernization of its facilities and organization. New equipment has been purchased; a management information system has become operational; and an innovative reorganization will be undertaken upon approval of the office's grant proposal. The application for grant money presents the combined efforts of the Boston Municipal Court Department Probation Office, the Court Clinic, the Office of the Chief Administrative Justice, the Office of the Commissioner of Probation and the Boston Municipal Court Department Lobby and Administrative Office.

The Department has continued its close relationship with other Trial Court Departments, revising bail and appeal procedures, participating in rules revisions, developing new systems for trials de novo and contributing to court educational efforts.

The Land Court Department

The Land Court Department is a Court of specialized jurisdiction which was established to process petitions for the registration of title to real estate and certain other matters relating to the ownership and use of real estate.

During 1979, in an effort to modernize its practices and procedures, to reduce backlog and increase both the quality and efficiency of its services, the Land Court Department, in cooperation with the Middlesex South Registry District and the Department of Housing and Urban Development, implemented a program aimed at finding a less expensive and more efficient method of maintaining records of real estate conveyances.

Despite an increasing caseload, the Land Court Department continues to maintain a short trial list. This is done by a system of "calls of the list" and pre-trial conferences, both in Boston and throughout the Commonwealth, which enable counsel and the Justice of the Court to meet and attempt to resolve the case, or at least agree on the facts and evidence, prior to trial. In addition, the Department has received cases transferred from the Superior Court Department to the Land Court Department for the purpose of a speedy trial. Legislation is currently pending which would allow the transfer of cases from the Probate and Family Court Department to the Land Court Department. This legislation would amend G.L.c. 215, section 6 and provides that the Probate and Family Court Department may, upon application of either party or on its own motion, transfer to the Land Court Department any civil action in which any right, title or interest in land is involved.

During 1979, the Land Court Department again sponsored a conference and seminar for the Registers of Deeds and their Assistants from the twenty-one Registries in the Commonwealth. These seminars assist the officials in the performance of their duties as Assistant Recorders of the Land Court.

The Superior Court Department

During 1979 the Superior Court Department was involved in a number of new and ongoing programs.

Supported by a $150,000 Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (LEAA) grant, the Superior Court Department has achieved significant progress in its effort to construct a sentencing model that will provide the Justices with a recommended but non-binding sentence range for similarly situated offenders based upon past Superior Court sentencing decisions. The bulk of the grant award has been used for data collection and analysis. After gathering extensive written information on 1,440 Superior Court sentencing decisions throughout the Commonwealth, project staff have completed a computerized, statistical analysis of these sentence decisions. Based upon the research findings, the Superior Court Committee on Probation and Parole has recommended to the full court the testing of a sentence guidelines model and on November 3, 1979, the full Superior Court voted to test the model.

The Superior Court Department has recently begun a program of Regional Administration. Five regions have been established and each will be administered by a Regional Administrative Justice (RAJ) under the direction of the Administrative Justice of the Superior Court Department. The Regional Administrative Justices will be delegated primary responsibility for determining the proper allocation of judicial resources assigned to the region and managing the efforts of other Justices, Clerks, Prosecutors, Probation Officers and members of the bar within the region to achieve as smooth and continuous flow of cases as is possible. LEAA funding has been secured to provide staff assistance to support this program.

The Secretary of State for the Commonwealth requested Superior Court Department assistance on election day, November 6, 1979 for voters who might encounter difficulties in exercising their right to vote. In accordance with this request, a Justice and a Clerk in each county were available, after regular court hours, to hear emergency voting matters. Plans are now being made to provide similar assistance for the March, 1980 presidential primary.

In 1979, the Superior Court Department completed its fifth Annual Judicial Internship Program. This program allows one law student from each of the Massachusetts Law schools the opportunity to work closely with participating justices and to observe actual court proceedings. Additionally, seminars were conducted to encourage informal and candid discussions among tudents, justices and distinguished trial attorneys.

In May, 1979, the Office of the Administrative Justice conducted an all-day educational seminar for Superior Court Clerk/Magistrates and assistants on the new Massachusetts Rules of Criminal Procedure which became effective July 1, 1979. A panel of Superior Court Justices discussed and answered questions regarding the significant changes brought about by the new rules. The seminar emphasized the new requirements and procedures to be complied with by the clerks.

The Housing Court Department

The Housing Court Department consists of two Divisions: The City of Boston Division and the Hampden County Division. The Department has civil and criminal jurisdiction concurrent with the District Court Department and the Superior Court Department in housing related matters arising in Boston and Hampden County.

During the past year legislation of importance to the Department was enacted. The legislation amended the Court's enabling statute G.L.c.185C, to clarify and expand the courts' subject matter jurisdiction. The Legislation, which had the support of the Office of the Chief Administrative Justice of the Trial Court and the Justices of the Supreme Judicial Court, specifically expands the Department's jurisdiction to include consumer claims under Chapter 93A of the General Laws and to include "all housing problems, including all contract and tort actions which affect the health, safety and welfare of the occupants or owners" of residential property. The law became effective on April 6, 1979.

The Housing Court Department places great importance on citizen access to the adjudicatory process. Throughout the year the Boston division continued its innovative practice, instituted in the court's earliest days, of holding neighborhood sessions in various sections of the city. Each neighborhood is visited twice by the court. Arraignments are held on the first date and trials on the second. Sessions were held in North Dorchester in September; East Boston in October; Hyde Park (for Roslindate and Jamaica Plain) in November; Allston-Brighton in December; Uphams Corner (for Mattapan, Roxbury and Franklin Hill) in May; and Dorchester in June. By bringing the court into their "back yards", neighborhood sessions have encouraged people to utilize the forum of the court.

Another Housing Court Department program which has proven of great value is the emergency "hot line" by which people can reach the court after 6:00 p.m. and on weekends and holidays. After evaluation by one of the Court's Housing Specialists, an emergency situation can be responded to within two hours of the original call.

The Housing Court Department's Housing Specialists are, perhaps, its most unique feature. Functioning somewhat analagously to Probation Officers in other Courts, the Housing Specialists provide an expertise in housing problems that is beneficial to both landlord and tenant. Housing Specialists perform duties which allow the Court to resolve many disputes without the need of an adversary hearing. They have proven to be effective mediators in pro se criminal cases and in small claims, summary process and civil actions.

To prevent a potential backlog in summary process cases, the Housing Court Department holds sessions on Saturdays. These sessions start promptly at 9:00 a.m. and continue until the list is completed. As with night sessions, the court believes that holding court during non-working hours promotes the public interest and is a valuable option available for the elimination of backlog.

As shown by the statistics contained elsewhere in this report, the Hampden County Division has exhibited substantial growth in the number of cases handled during the past year. Despite the extra burden on the court's staff, the Court continued to maintain full trial sessions and to provide information on court procedures to the public. As of the year's end, both divisions were substantially current in scheduling cases, with no appreciable backlog.

The Probate and Family Court Department

The Probate and Family Court Department is organized into fourteen divisions throughout the Commonwealth with one Division in each County.

Most of the activity in this department is in the area of family matters involving divorce, annulment and affirmation of marriages; matters relating to the care, custody and maintenance of minor children, and matters concerning the partition of real estate held in common. The Probate and Family Court Department also has jurisdiction of all cases in equity under the general principles of equity jurisprudence.

An important activity of the Probate and Family Court Department is in the area of child support collections. The Department, through its Family Service Officers, collects payments for the Department of Public Welfare and for private litigants. An advantage of this system is that seventy-five per cent of the expenses of the court's Family Service Officers and support staff are reimbursable by the federal government under 1975 amendments to Title IV-D of the Social Security Act.

During 1979 the Probate and Family Court Department continued its practice of holding judicial conferences which afford opportunities for the study, discussion and debate of rules and procedures and for focusing judicial attention on court related problem areas.

During 1979, four judicial conferences were held dealing with uniform practices, training programs for assistant registers, adoption and placement procedures, child support and wage attachment rules, and a variety of other matters of particular importance to the Justices of this Department.

In 1979, under the transfer provisions of the Court Reorganization Act, Justices of the Probate and Family Court Department accepted assignments to the Superior Court Department to assist in the Trial Court effort to reduce backlog. This marked a new development of flexibility within the Trial Court.

The eventual goal of the Probate and Family Court Department is to provide a trial on a contested matter within thirty days of request. In order to accomplish this objective, various methods of pre-trial conferences and mediation techniques were explored during 1979 and a case management conference in cooperation with the Flaschner Judicial Institute is planned for early 1980.

The Juvenile Court Department

The Juvenile Court Department consists of four divisions -- Boston, Worcester, Springfield and Bristol County. Elsewhere, the local divisions of the District Court Department handle matters involving juveniles.

The Department has jurisdiction over cases of Delinquency, CHINS (Children in Need of Services), and Care and Protection petitions.

In conjunction with its judicial authority, the Department has instituted many court and community based programs to assist juveniles involved in proceedings before it. These programs involve rehabilitation and retraining for juveniles, court clinics which offer psychiatric and psychological assistance to children referred by judges and/or probation officers, a cooperative agreement with the Department of Public Welfare to place children in foster homes or special schools and to offer supportive services to both parents and youth and a detention avoidance program in cooperation with the Department of Mental Health which provides for close supervision by a social worker for low risk bail cases. The Juvenile Court Department has also developed a network of highly specialized and comprehensive services to aid neglected or abused children.

The Juvenile Court Department is expanding its pilot "emergency judicial response" system established in 1978. The system was established to provide emergency judicial hearings on a 24-hour-a-day basis, seven days a week, at the site of the emergency.

During 1979, the Department, in conjunction with the Health Care Committee of the Massachusetts Legislature, conducted the first educational seminar of its kind to orient the personnel from all hospitals in Massachusetts of their legal obligations and proper methods of reporting and processing child abuse, neglect and health care cases.

Also during 1979, the Department, in conjunction with the Massachusetts Chapter of the National Committee for the Prevention of Child Abuse, conducted the first educational seminar on Child Abuse, Neglect and Health Care for judges, clerk/magistrates and probation officers of both the Juvenile and District Court Departments.

The Department, pursuant to Court Reorganization legislation has established a Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures and five subcommittees in the areas of Delinquency, CHINS, Care and Protection, Transfer Hearings and Mental Health. Rules will be promulgated to govern all proceedings before the Juvenile Court Department and juvenile sessions of the District Court Department.

The Department is also continuing its student training program which provides field work experience to graduate and undergraduate students in such fields as social work, counseling, education, law, medicine, religion and recreation.

Office of the Commissioner of Probation

The Commissioner of Probation exercises executive control and supervision of the probation service of the Trial Court and maintains the Commonwealth's central file of criminal records. During 1979, the Office of the Commissioner of Probation undertoook a number of major administrative and organizational activities.

The regiona! probation administration system implemented in 1978 was strengthened through redeployment of staff and an increase in the amount of time spent by the Commissioner's regional probation administrators in local office activities and meetings.

A new "Risk/Need" System for classifying probation supervisees was tested in nine pilot probation offices in 1979. Statewide workshops on the new system were held for all local probation supervisory staff to enable full, statewide implementation during 1980. The Risk/Need System will provide for a standardized format for evaluating client needs and will have a significant impact on planning for client needs and caseflow management.

Performance appraisal instruments developed by consultants from Carkuff Institute were tested in six probation offices in 1979. System-wide refinement of the performance appraisal system and instruments, which, in the future, could be implemented for the nearly 1400 professional and clerical employees of the Massachusetts Probation Service is planned to begin in 1980.

The basic components of a comprehensive management information system were identified and outlined with the assistance of Touche Ross and Company. The components include, local office reporting; "risk/need" data; grievance monitoring; basic personnel information; training; research; and administration. Present plans include the implementation of some of these components during 1980.

Several categories of probation standards were developed during 1979, as mandated by C. 478, section 99, of the Acts of 1978. These include investigation standards for the Superior, District and Boston Municipal Court Departments as initially recommended by the Judicial-Probation Task Forces, and accreditation standards for Probate and Family Court Department probation offices as initially recommended by a Probate and Family Court Probation Committee.

The Massachusetts Accreditation Commission, an independent commission sponsored by the Commissioner's Office, completed its organizational activities and made revisions to the 1973 accreditation standards for probation offices. The first applications for accreditation were received in September of 1979.

The Commissioner's Office also sponsored over 10,000 hours of training programs during 1979 for nearly 600 probation personnel. These programs included orientation programs for new probation officers, management training programs for supervisory personnel and a considerable variety of in-service training programs for line staff.

A public education program was also begun last year. This program was designed to disseminate research findings to newspapers and radio and television stations across the state.

Statistical Appendix

CAVEAT LECTOR

The method employed to collect the various departmental workload figures on the following pages is, at the present time, a manual system. As such, this system is subject to minor definitional and counting errors. For the most part, these errors were detected and corrected by the various Trial Court Department Administrative Offices before inclusion in this report. Others are noted on the presentation page. However, a complete audit of all data for Divisions was not possible by all Departments. For this reason, the following figures should be regarded as general indicators of the activity within a case type or disposition category.

The District Court Department

The District Court Department is composed of 69 divisions grouped into five administrative regions. The Department has jurisdiction over a range of criminal, non-criminal and juvenile matters.

In criminal matters, the divisions of the District Court Department have jurisdiction over all misdemeanors and over felonies authorized pursuant to G.L.c. 218, section 26. Commencing January 1, 1979, the District Court, Boston Municipal Court and Juvenile Court Departments were authorized under Chapter 478 of the Acts of 1978 to hold jury-of-six sessions for both first instance trials and de novo appeals in criminal cases over which they have first jurisdiction. Jury-of-six locations, at least one per county, have been established in the District Court Department for this purpose. The number of sessions varies according to caseload demands.

During the final six months of FY '79 the jury-of-six sessions of the District Court Department received both requests for first instance jury trials and appeals from 5,237 defendants. A total of 4,120 of these cases where handled by the Department. One thousand one hundred and seventeen cases remained pending on June 30, 1979.

During fiscal year 1979, the District Court Department received 788,190 criminal complaints. Seventy-five percent or 590,070 of these complaints were motor vehicle related. Total criminal complaints rose by 8 percent over the FY '78 complaint entry figure, while motor vehicle complaints increased by 7 per cent.

Department dispositions were up 2 percent over FY '78 to 594,738 a level equal to 75 percent of criminal complaint entries for the year.

A second type of case categorized as criminal business before the District Court Department is the processing of parking violations. In FY '79, the sixty-nine divisions had 2,687,857 parking tickets returned to them by various police departments across the state.

In FY '79, a total of 1,086,583 fines were paid on parking tickets issued during and before this reporting period. In response to delinquent fines, 817,288 complaints were issued. Dispositions of complaints issued in this and in previous years reached 414,664 during the 12 month reporting period.

A second major area of business before the District Court Department involves a variety of non-criminal matters. These civil suits involve cases in seven categories including small claims, summary process or eviction cases, and supplementary process, i.e., cases concerning the ability of a defendant to pay court judgments.

Civil business expanded by 8,422 case entries to 73,993 in FY '79, a 13 percent increase over the previous year. Dispositions of civil cases rose by 30 percent from 39,077 in FY '78 to 50,878 in FY '79. In fiscal year 1978, the level of civil dispositions reached 60 percent of the level of new case entries. During the past 12 months, this ratio was 69 percent, a 9 percent improvement.

The improvement was even more dramatic in Small Claims cases, the largest category of cases before the department. During the year, small claims case entries increased by 17,680 or 17 percent to 122,163 entries. Small Claims dispositions for this same period increased by 26 percent bringing the ratio of dispositions of new case entries to 72 percent for the fiscal year. The comparable figure for Small Claims cases for FY '78 was 67 percent.

The divisions of the District Court Department have concurrent jurisdiction over all juvenile matters in areas not served by a division of the Juvenile Court Department. Increases in juvenile business were registered for all case categories in FY '79. Juvenile Delinquency complaints underwent a modest 7% increase of 2,988 entries bringing the FY '79 total to 40,359 entries. Twenty-seven percent of these Delinquency Complaints were motor vehicle related matters.

Dispositions of Delinquency Complaints also increased by 6 percent.

Petitions requested for Children in Need of Serfices (CHINS) increased by only 12 percent. However, petitions issued by the department increased by 11 percent, while CHINS cases disposed of declined by 372 or 16 percent. Forty-two CHINS cases were appealed to jury sessions.

The final category, Care and Protection cases, underwent sizable increases in both petitions received and disposed of. Petitions received rose by 23 percent, while petitions disposed of increased by 59 percent. Seventy-five appeals to jury sessions were filed.

DISTRICT COURT DEPARTMENT

Report on Criminal Business

Criminal	FY'78	FY'79	Change No.	Change %
Motor Vehicle Complaints Entered	549,843	590,070	40,227	7%
Total Criminal Complaints Entered	731,682	788,190	56,508	8%
Total Criminal Complaints Disposed of	581,681	594,738	13,057	2%
Total Appeals to Jury Sessions	18,995	20,715	1,720	9%

Parking Violations

Tickets Returned	------	2,687,857
Tickets Paid	------	1,086,583
Complaints Issued	------	817,288
Complaints Disposed of	------	414,664

NOTE: Due to changes in the methods of reporting statistics, comparison figures for FY'78 are not available in all categories for all business conducted in the District Court Department.

DISTRICT COURT DEPARTMENT

Report on Non-Criminal Business

Civil Business	FY'78	FY'79	Change No.	Change %
New Entries	65,571	73,993	8,422	13%
Cases Disposed of	39,077	50,878	11,801	30%
Cases Removed to Superior Court	2,315	1,893	422	18%
Transfer Cases				
Received	--------	3,255		
Disposed of	--------	2,352		
Petitions for Mental Commitments				
Received	--------	2,616		
Disposed of	--------	2,269		
Summary Process Cases				
Entered	--------	23,103		
Disposed of	--------	16,483		
Small Claims Cases				
Entered	104,483	122,163	17,680	17%
Disposed of	69,600	87,552	17,952	26%
Appeals	--------	684		
Supplementary Process Cases				
Entered	--------	67,530		
Disposed of	--------	27,492		
URESA Cases				
Initiated				
Locally	--------	2,179		
Other states	--------	2,195		
Disposed of	--------	2,328		

DISTRICT COURT DEPARTMENT

Report on Juvenile Business

	FY'78	FY'79	Change No.	Change %
Juvenile Delinquency				
Motor Vehicle Complaints	-------	11,082		
Total Compiaints	37,371	40,359	2,988	7%
Complaints Disposed of	30,208	32,074	1,866	6%
Appeals to Jury Sessions	-------	1,134		
Children in Need of Services (CHINS)				
Petitions Requested	2,616	2,664	48	2%
Petitions Issued	1,369	1,525	156	11%
Petitions Disposed of	2,271	1,899	-372	-16%
Appeals to Jury Sessions	-------	42		
Care and Protection				
Petitions Received	964	1,189	225	23%
Petitions Disposed of	534	847	313	59%
Appeals to Jury Sessions	-------	75		

Divisions	CRIMINAL STATISTICS				PARKING VIOLATIONS			
	Motor Vehicle Complaints	Total Criminal Complaints	Criminal Complaints Disposed of	Appeals to Jury Sessions	Tickets Returned	Tickets Paid	Complaints Issued	Complaints Disposed of
REGION I								
1st Barnstable (Barnstable)	11,172	16,602	13,314	768	16,917	5,740	0	0
2nd Barnstable (Orleans)	4,920	7,587	5,315	373	26,051	8,112	850	162
1st Bristol (Taunton)	5,494	8,191	8,480	329	21,229	13,969	239	0
2nd Bristol (Fall River)	10,551	16,598	14,694	271	63,509	41,980	9,695	7,427
3rd Bristol (New Bedford)	4,490	9,762	9,599	296	51,748	26,700	8,999	6,682
4th Bristol (Attleboro)	8,891	11,345	11,430	121	17,415	11,109	3,252	2,262
4th Plymouth (Wareham)	7,252	9,628	9,508	292	3,583	2,668	184	122
Brockton	14,729	20,788	20,122	430	24,101	11,260	3,559	2,004
2nd Plymouth (Hingham)	9,126	13,217	12,322	519	9,138	3,172	5,864	4,663
3rd Plymouth (Plymouth)	9,566	12,513	10,820	250	8,661	6,157	912	360
Dukes (Edgartown)	2,354	2,860	2,112	11	9,965	4,519	1,533	651
Nantucket	421	546	461	14	4,799	1,854	315	658
TOTAL	88,966	129,637	118,177	3,674	257,116	137,240	35,402	24,991

Divisions	New entries	Civil Cases			Transfer Cases		Petitions For Mental Commitment		Summary Process Cases		Small Claims Cases			Supplementary Process		U.R.E.S.A.		
		Disposed of	Removed to Superior Ct. pre trial	Removed to Superior Ct. post trial	Received	Disposed of	Received	Disposed of	Entered	Disposed of	Entered	Disposed of	Appeals	Entered	Disposed of	Cases initiated local	Cases initiated other states	disposed of
REGION I																		
1st Barnstable	1,669	346	40	9	67	35	0	0	271	45	2,794	982	19	1,351	227	49	57	25
2nd Barnstable	640	647	11	4	21	11	19	21	83	71	1,284	1,430	0	330	445	34	17	48
1st Bristol	1,244	418	34	5	30	12	81	70	382	275	1,679	1,329	10	702	240	22	44	60
2nd Bristol	1,248	5,334	54	9	62	55	8	8	366	301	2,247	1,678	12	871	266	120	66	23
3rd Bristol	1,462	866	38	4	50	26	12	7	779	651	7,317	4,670	11	3,209	881	55	46	97
4th Bristol	705	485	16	8	32	12	5	5	227	180	1,499	947	18	693	332	17	59	81
4th Plymouth	487	451	7	5	18	15	17	17	142	93	1,796	1,250	15	855	431	31	22	44
Brockton	2,057	1,243	39	6	53	11	404	365	981	515	2,949	1,448	15	1,681	797	35	42	42
2nd Plymouth	1,152	961	13	4	28	21	8	7	177	164	1,549	1,125	3	597	428	27	18	18
3rd Plymouth	937	630	19	4	28	25	38	38	228	132	2,078	1,591	7	969	477	17	28	12
Dukes	108	57	2	1	0	0	0	0	9	9	652	452	0	35	31	6	6	1
Nantucket	74	29	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	6	85	81	0	29	9	0	6	3
TOTAL	11,783	11,467	273	59	389	223	592	538	3,656	2,442	25,929	16,983	110	11,322	4,564	413	411	454

	JUVENILE DELINQUENCY STATISTICS				CHILDREN IN NEED OF SERVICES(CHINS)				CHILDREN IN NEED OF CARE AND PROTECTION		
Divisions	Motor Vehicle Complaints	Total Criminal Complaints	Criminal Complaints Disposed of	Appeals To Jury Sessions	Petitions Requested	Petitions Issued	Petitions Disposed of	Appeals To Jury Session	Petitions Received	Petitions Disposed of	Appeals to Jury Session
REGION I											
1st Barnstable	351	1,227	1,008	13	56	50	29	0	23	7	0
2nd Barnstable	153	704	389	2	22	9	28	0	9	3	0
1st Bristol											
2nd Bristol	JUVENILE CASES HANDLED BY THE BRISTOL DIVISION OF THE										
3rd Bristol	JUVENILE COURT DEPARTMENT										
4th Bristol											
4th Plymouth	200	849	728	14	44	25	39	1	16	9	2
Brockton	330	1,756	1,448	60	110	42	96	1	106	57	1
2nd Plymouth	248	1,015	1,002	40	10	3	26	1	8	4	2
3rd Plymouth	330	1,250	1,230	31	66	51	35	0	22	11	0
Dukes	17	59	36	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Nantucket	8	45	32	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	0
TOTAL	1,637	6,905	5,873	161	310	181	254	3	185	92	5

Divisions	CRIMINAL STATISTICS				PARKING VIOLATIONS			
	Motor Vehicle Complaints	Total Criminal Complaints	Criminal Complaints Disposed of	Appeals to Jury Sessions	Tickets Returned	Tickets Paid	Complaints Issued	Complaints Disposed of
REGION II								
1st Essex (Salem)	20,050	22,854	7,124	118	82,637	54,345	28,165	14,237
Southern Essex (Lynn)	9,573	14,396	10,147	566	48,443	16,003	38,227	13,965
Peabody	5,078	7,596	6,342	297	6,321	2,234	2,421	1,872
Eastern Essex (Gloucester)	5,130	8,052	6,815	353	52,796	21,806	5,782	5,125
Central N. Essex (Haverhill)	5,161	6,949	5,756	355	522	298	324	251
Lawrence	13,189	16,793	17,854	668	43,417	25,933	17,126	12,879
2nd Essex (Amesbury)	4,968	6,994	4,702	324	9,525	4,621	7	7
Newburyport	4,035	4,901	4,203	187	4,550	3,575	1,870	1,011
3rd Essex (Ipswich)	532	848	802	25	1,502	827	0	0
Brighton	6,463	7,879	2,057	19	93,316	23,763	28,917	11 855
Charlestown	653	935	889	70	4,412	2,229	2,805	1,940
Chelsea	9,372	11,517	10,382	631	19,698	7,074	5,453	6,711
Dorchester	21,374	26,958	2,485	520	28,000	5,101	12,100	3,910
East Boston	4,108	5,869	5,228	373	81,432	22,467	57,909	32,982
Roxbury	12,510	21,179	4,351	738	337,696	71,236	119,557	48,429
South Boston	2,182	3,182	3,168	155	15,605	6,479	11,726	10,550
West Roxbury	11,179	18,762	9,815	625	20,659	5,926	13,689	3,832
TOTAL	135,557	185,664	102,120	6,024	850,531	273,917	346,078	169,556

Divisions	New entries	Civil Cases			Transfer Cases		Petitions For Mental Commitment		Summary Process Cases		Small Claims Cases			Supplementary Process		U.R.E.S.A.		
		Disposed of	Removed to Superior Ct.		Received	Disposed of	Received	Disposed of	Entered	Disposed of	Entered	Disposed of	Appeals	Entered	Disposed of	Cases initiated local	other states	disposed of
			pre trial	post trial														
REGION II																		
1st Essex	2,140	1,476	28	5	29	35	74	74	431	352	3,397	1,025	34	704	129	0	0	0
Southern Essex	2,452	845	35	6	36	20	5	5	592	448	3,519	2,629	26	1,969	143	28	47	73
Peabody	1,607	886	11	5	17	5	11	11	251	114	1,466	1,097	7	752	135	9	10	5
Eastern Essex	507	215	9	2	5	2	27	21	375	256	1,523	1,400	4	1,192	953	36	22	19
Central N. Essex	994	642	25	3	13	24	9	8	390	156	875	1,380	10	1,014	223	51	46	67
Lawrence	1,770	1,120	35	8	24	8	0	0	919	837	2,587	2,214	5	790	511	26	64	64
2nd Essex	116	65	2	0	1	1	3	3	227	213	660	500	2	276	100	14	14	14
Newburyport	313	220	2	1	2	1	1	1	98	87	751	360	4	459	130	4	14	16
3rd Essex	418	243	3	2	2	0	0	0	40	10	296	226	1	96	19	6	0	0
Brighton	400	211	7	2	18	21	0	0	558	287	986	646	14	665	178	10	26	33
Charlestown	256	171	18	0	17	6	0	0	182	130	290	194	0	295	256	19	6	4
Chelsea	1,025	638	47	8	28	48	0	0	506	352	1,429	973	12	1,109	462	18	10	13
Dorchester	1,266	512	21	9	52	63	26	26	1,416	1,048	2,334	1,385	4	5,426	1,262	60	100	78
East Boston	490	211	18	2	26	19	11	12	284	104	1,449	577	9	1,315	417	17	15	35
Roxbury	528	231	24	9	25	13	69	69	1,506	1,190	1,427	1,168	12	1,408	465	37	67	101
South Boston	276	216	12	3	13	11	2	2	139	103	597	371	6	428	47	16	10	16
West Roxbury	603	201	16	1	45	49	194	177	885	670	1,810	1,163	52	2,431	1,449	11	49	2
TOTAL	15,161	8,103	313	66	353	326	432	409	8,799	6,357	25,396	17,308	202	20,329	6,879	362	500	540

Divisions	JUVENILE DELINQUENCY STATISTICS				CHILDREN IN NEED OF SERVICES (CHINS)				CHILDREN IN NEED OF CARE AND PROTECTION		
	Motor Vehicle Complaints	Total Criminal Complaints	Criminal Complaints Disposed of	Appeals To Jury Sessions	Petitions Requested	Petitions Issued	Petitions Disposed of	Appeals To Jury Session	Petitions Received	Petitions Disposed of	Appeals to Jury Session
REGION II											
1st Essex	162	811	439	0	42	29	24	0	23	14	0
Southern Essex	327	1,115	763	29	151	56	32	1	34	7	1
Peabody	140	573	451	5	61	27	21	0	3	1	0
Eastern Essex	204	729	651	21	22	7	13	0	7	4	0
Central North Essex	118	615	265	8	17	3	13	0	23	20	3
Lawrence	33	1,235	1,247	8	83	78	67	2	61	57	4
Second Essex	88	349	294	5	21	10	13	0	4	0	0
Newburyport	86	309	206	5	24	31	11	0	8	4	0
3rd Essex	31	109	96	0	10	10	4	0	1	0	0
Brighton	71	309	205	4	0	0	11	0	0	8	2
Charlestown	70	164	151	24	2	1	9	0	1	3	0
Chelsea	141	504	443	25	0	0	5	5	0	4	0
Dorchester	323	1,191	155	47	0	0	90	0	0	37	0
East Boston	128	395	353	37	2	9	17	0	0	16	13
Roxbury	118	783	271	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0
South Boston	115	276	289	11	0	0	3	0	3	9	3
West Roxbury	216	1,093	686	194	0	0	23	0	0	6	1
TOTAL	2,371	10,560	6,965	423	435	261	356	12	168	190	27

Divisions	CRIMINAL STATISTICS				PARKING VIOLATIONS			
	Motor Vehicle Complaints	Total Criminal Complaints	Criminal Complaints Disposed of	Appeals to Jury Sessions	Tickets Returned	Tickets Paid	Complaints Issued	Complaints Disposed of
REGION III								
lst E. Middlesex (Malden)	7,256	10,122	7,722	286	86,844	39,233	20,718	16,221
3rd E. Middlesex (Cambridge)	18,641	23,702	21,122	507	425,632	113,259	178,105	81,488
Newton	9,030	10,750	8,813	242	133,754	43,305	29,789	20,406
Somerville	7,097	9,466	3,150	285	46,920	16,471	22,500	10,448
lst S. Middlesex (Framingham)	15,141	19,574	16,742	313	14,258	5,928	5,663	2,766
Central Middlesex (Concord)	10,979	13,034	11,805	942	25,741	15,046	7,028	1,248
Marlborough	10,003	11,539	12,905	163	9,540	1,160	91	51
Natick	4,254	5,336	1,815	89	4,841	1,988	1,170	488
2nd E. Middlesex (Waltham)	15,298	18,143	12,337	291	45,650	16,146	2,294	3,547
Lowell	25,241	37,775	22,166	267	42,038	26,004	1,765	1,363
lst N. Middlesex (Ayer)	12,778	15,668	10,839	63	197	93	117	117
4th E. Middlesex (Woburn)	10,582	13,961	11,781	448	43,970	9,052	2,425	1,356
TOTAL	146,300	189,070	141,197	3,896	879,385	287,685	271,665	139,499

Divisions	New entries	Civil Cases Disposed of	Removed to Superior Ct. pre trial	Removed to Superior Ct. post trial	Transfer Cases Received	Transfer Cases Disposed of	Petitions For Mental Commitment Received	Petitions For Mental Commitment Disposed of	Summary Process Cases Entered	Summary Process Cases Disposed of	Small Claims Cases Entered	Small Claims Cases Disposed of	Appeals	Supplementary Process Entered	Supplementary Process Disposed of	U.R.E.S.A Cases initiated local	U.R.E.S.A Cases initiated other states	U.R.E.S.A disposed of
REGION III																		
1st E. Middlesex	2,404	1,768	46	2	173	97	9	5	482	321	2,644	903	9	3,585	1,721	8	43	11
3rd E. Middlesex	4,071	2,404	81	32	117	94	110	110	702	371	2,882	2,721	51	1,685	2,650	46	40	7
Newton	1,814	1,379	42	8	51	46	18	18	83	51	1,469	2,598	8	671	31	16	10	7
Somerville	1,534	464	23	5	74	39	10	2	500	127	2,413	1,130	6	1,522	236	17	18	10
1st S. Middlesex	1,872	1,223	79	9	65	49	5	3	584	281	2,327	1,550	14	1,205	450	40	50	40
Central Middlesex	960	919	28	9	47	23	26	31	154	112	1,469	1,252	9	595	217	15	34	41
Marlborough	379	268	7	1	21	17	0	0	361	225	880	654	3	511	107	58	45	41
Natick	352	249	16	1	17	14	2	1	43	9	685	429	2	228	76	9	23	7
2nd E. Middlesex	2,630	1,637	50	19	48	6	292	292	184	105	2,716	1,266	2	918	478	30	19	11
Lowell	2,285	830	45	2	127	112	57	51	1,762	1,500	6,818	8,416	12	4,871	2,526	119	101	39
1st N. Middlesex	365	161	8	0	22	20	15	15	248	155	1,598	1,166	6	572	152	42	40	38
4th E. Middlesex	1,993	2,777	68	12	109	137	46	4	282	224	3,527	2,068	41	1,569	267	35	36	23
TOTAL	20,659	14,079	493	100	871	654	590	532	5,385	3,481	29,428	24,153	163	17,932	8,911	435	459	275

	JUVENILE DELINQUENCY STATISTICS				CHILDREN IN NEED OF SERVICES(CHINS)				CHILDREN IN NEED OF CARE AND PROTECTION		
Divisions	Motor Vehicle Complaints	Total Criminal Complaints	Criminal Complaints Disposed of	Appeals To Jury Sessions	Petitions Requested	Petitions Issued	Petitions Disposed of	Appeals To Jury Session	Petitions Received	Petitions Disposed of	Appeals to Jury Session
REGION III											
1st E. Middlesex	361	963	962	16	60	55	79	0	23	9	1
3rd E. Middlesex	283	893	820	71	63	2	45	0	55	49	5
Newton	96	389	239	18	21	9	11	0	13	4	0
Somerville	226	797	143	5	48	22	18	0	61	5	1
1st S. Middlesex	321	1,099	981	33	80	38	70	0	18	22	1
Central Middlesex	296	845	843	85	7	0	10	0	14	18	0
Marlborough	59	318	294	9	60	22	53	0	15	4	2
Natick	70	340	253	3	23	3	1	0	12	2	0
2nd E. Middlesex	183	856	561	2	141	39	75	1	18	10	1
Lowell	602	1,568	1,900	28	159	160	129	8	86	65	10
1st N. Middlesex	173	709	464	2	48	34	42	0	24	21	1
4th E. Middlesex	359	979	934	46	41	25	26	1	30	13	3
TOTAL	3,029	9,757	8,394	318	751	409	559	10	369	222	25

Divisions	CRIMINAL STATISTICS				PARKING VIOLATIONS			
	Motor Vehicle Complaints	Total Criminal Complaints	Criminal Complaints Disposed of	Appeals to Jury Sessions	Tickets Returned	Tickets Paid	Complaints Issued	Complaints Disposed of
REGION IV								
Southern Norfolk (Stoughton)	8,789	9,779	9,736	238	2,566	1,933	633	388
Eastern Norfolk (Quincy)	12,949	20,817	15,817	551	47,519	27,746	5,369	2,218
Northern Norfolk (Dedham)	9,919	11,474	7,569	245	35,156	23,887	3	3
Brookline	2,301	3,100	2,198	53	185,297	91,902	28,691	5,720
Western Norfolk (Wrentham)	8,133	11,254	9,934	306	623	3,001	17	9
Central Worcester (Worcester)	33,809	44,566	49,152	1,675	149,650	88,568	21,669	14,533
lst S. Worcester (Dudley)	16,330	18,435	16,863	490	2,181	1,388	0	0
W. Worcester (N.Brookfield)	5,742	7,112	5,452	154	664	389	342	284
3rd S. Worcester(Milford)	4,133	5,116	3,989	133	7,553	6,057	794	612
2nd S. Worcester (Uxbridge)	4,068	4,973	4,225	59	2,561	1,490	135	115
lst E. Worcester(Westborough)	20,720	22,575	20,152	443	3,141	2,030	965	815
Fitchburg	4,075	5,708	3,839	176	17,170	12,701	10,465	399
2nd E. Worcester (Clinton)	6,722	7,536	9,738	107	0	0	0	0
lst N. Worcester (Gardner)	3,276	5,165	3,675	203	7,732	4,333	1,895	2,764
Leominster	3,121	4,076	2,741	126	3,365	2,063	955	1,101
Winchendon	368	698	599	59	178	402	90	63
TOTAL	144,087	182,384	165,679	5,018	465,356	267,890	72,023	29,024

Divisions	New entries	Civil Cases Disposed of	Removed to Superior Ct. pre trial	Removed to Superior Ct. post trial	Transfer Cases Received	Transfer Cases Disposed of	Petitions For Mental Commitment Received	Petitions For Mental Commitment Disposed of	Summary Process Cases Entered	Summary Process Cases Disposed of	Small Claims Cases Entered	Small Claims Cases Disposed of	Small Claims Cases Appeals	Supplementary Process Entered	Supplementary Process Disposed of	U.R.E.S.A. Cases initiated local	U.R.E.S.A. Cases initiated other states	U.R.E.S.A. disposed of
REGION IV																		
Southern Norfolk	1,028	603	17	7	58	21	0	0	88	38	1,166	773	24	414	135	22	8	8
Eastern Norfolk	4,945	2,611	109	8	239	58	45	43	801	714	4,913	3,381	19	2,087	1,071	74	31	42
Northern Norfolk	1,840	1,402	37	6	137	138	87	84	120	62	1,934	1,705	7	1,276	490	24	23	29
Brookline	1,325	656	30	12	77	40	11	11	352	264	1,102	554	12	597	163	16	13	15
Western Norfolk	631	475	22	1	43	50	74	74	252	201	1,720	552	4	1,116	456	18	26	22
Central Worcester	5,673	3,794	65	4	419	315	185	15	1,168	1,103	3,995	2,922	7	1,673	1,214	57	90	95
1st S. Worcester	333	256	4	4	38	48	28	15	167	122	1,568	1,287	5	809	285	58	43	102
Western Worcester	181	131	3	0	23	19	0	0	66	37	669	680	4	563	324	16	18	20
3rd S. Worcester	445	263	28	1	35	28	4	0	255	211	705	272	1	433	77	13	16	8
2nd S. Worcester	228	111	4	1	15	11	0	0	37	34	468	350	2	207	70	56	21	54
1st E. Worcester	542	501	10	1	68	81	82	82	224	168	966	394	3	504	161	21	31	41
Fitchburg	633	747	13	1	40	23	27	24	184	156	2,952	1,972	0	1,374	313	44	23	56
2nd E. Worcester	154	26	1	0	28	8	0	0	89	30	639	373	0	268	238	24	20	23
1st N. Worcester	277	200	19	0	22	22	2	2	131	104	991	697	0	363	98	26	19	10
Leominster	400	236	7	1	38	15	2	0	201	146	1,507	933	3	328	230	34	11	34
Winchendon	38	24	0	0	4	3	0	0	9	5	193	155	0	77	28	11	2	2
TOTAL	18,673	12,036	369	47	1,284	880	547	350	4,144	3,395	25,488	17,000	91	12,089	5,353	514	395	561

Divisions	JUVENILE DELINQUENCY STATISTICS				CHILDREN IN NEED OF SERVICES(CHINS)				CHILDREN IN NEED OF CARE AND PROTECTION		
	Motor Vehicle Complaints	Total Criminal Complaints	Criminal Complaints Disposed of	Appeals To Jury Sessions	Petitions Requested	Petitions Issued	Petitions Disposed of	Appeals To Jury Session	Petitions Received	Petitions Disposed of	Appeals to Jury Session
REGION IV											
Southern Norfolk	206	685	478	8	14	13	25	1	7	4	7
Eastern Norfolk	508	1,755	1,413	33	201	56	19	3	105	109	0
Northern Norfolk	216	542	250	1	2	0	2	0	3	4	0
Brookline	26	122	119	1	16	10	4	0	5	3	2
Western Norfolk	429	1,228	1,022	42	58	15	71	1	10	4	0
Central Worcester	Juvenile Cases Handled by the Worcester Division of the Juvenile Court Department										
1st S. Worcester	80	421	552	27	17	50	63	0	5	15	0
Western Worcester	152	451	348	0	47	38	23	0	5	5	0
3rd S. Worcester	140	366	228	0	72	25	8	0	19	2	0
2nd S. Worcester	130	233	280	2	41	41	26	0	8	4	0
1st E. Worcester	200	603	452	5	64	53	9	0	11	11	0
Fitchburg	161	451	359	0	54	13	17	0	17	11	0
2nd E. Worcester	158	366	409	21	45	11	28	4	4	0	4
1st N. Worcester	81	429	504	22	21	28	87	0	14	31	0
Leominster	84	239	261	0	59	15	35	0	11	7	0
Winchendon	56	126	100	6	13	6	10	0	2	1	0
TOTAL	2,627	8,016	6,775	168	724	374	427	9	226	211	13

Divisions	CRIMINAL STATISTICS				PARKING VIOLATIONS			
	Motor Vehicle Complaints	Total Criminal Complaints	Criminal Complaints Disposed of	Appeals to Jury Sessions	Tickets Returned	Tickets Paid	Complaints Issued	Complaints Disposed of
REGION V								
Central Berkshire (Pittsfield)	5,040	7,500	7,028	104	46,514	32,337	9,884	10,477
Adams Williamstown Northern Berkshire (N. Adams)	1,829	3,472	2,890	123	3,689	3,290	583	563
Southern Berkshire (Great Barrington) Lee	3,775	4,945	4,240	44	1,726	1,168	311	2 45
Springfield	22,006	30,819	12,305	908	76,033	24,188	50,295	21,086
Chicopee	4,868	6,451	3,892	27	1,081	327	0	0
Eastern Hampden (Palmer)	7,218	8,168	2,449	49	1,403	1,013	117	84
Holyoke	6,313	7,886	7,011	373	29,671	13,521	15,456	10,438
Western Hampden (Westfield)	4,527	5,452	5,550	145	4,243	2,762	564	430
Hampshire (Northampton)	10,997	15,665	10,943	231	65,229	37,319	11,882	6,591
Eastern Hampshire (Ware)	85	787	576	10	718	319	0	0
Franklin (Greenfield)	6,899	8,237	8,740	81	5,138	3,603	3,028	1,698
Eastern Franklin (Orange)	1,603	2,053	1,941	8	24	4	0	0
TOTAL	75,160	101,435	67,565	2,103	235,469	119,851	92,120	51,594

Divisions	Civil Cases: New entries	Civil Cases: Disposed of	Civil Cases: Removed to Superior Ct. pre trial	Civil Cases: Removed to Superior Ct. post trial	Transfer Cases: Received	Transfer Cases: Disposed of	Petitions For Mental Commitment: Received	Petitions For Mental Commitment: Disposed of	Summary Process Cases: Entered	Summary Process Cases: Disposed of	Small Claims Cases: Entered	Small Claims Cases: Disposed of	Small Claims Cases: Appeals	Supplementary Process: Entered	Supplementary Process: Disposed of	U.R.E.S.A.: Cases initiated local	U.R.E.S.A.: Cases initiated other states	U.R.E.S.A.: disposed of
REGION V																		
C. Berkshire	1,196	137	2	24	6	6	0	0	83	182	1,499	1,050	7	639	388	37	30	25
Adams																		
Williamstown	199	174	2	0	0	0	0	0	51	22	667	499	3	357	128	18	10	8
N. Berkshire																		
S. Berkshire																		
Lee	369	186	12	2	5	4	0	0	23	16	1,112	893	9	534	243	20	17	5
Springfield	3,381	2,889	74	2	115	107	203	203	80	31	5,361	4,467	21	2,198	180	73	149	150
Chicopee	196	36	5	1	34	3	26	26	5	2	1,097	949	4	359	90	62	52	46
E. Hampden	160	130	2	0	43	43	3	2	23	16	838	647	9	316	103	35	25	30
Holyoke	138	418	4	1	21	23	10	5	11	7	769	282	9	148	51	37	18	7
W. Hampden	229	176	3	1	56	52	6	6	38	36	849	479	0	303	24	10	21	89
Hampshire	1,316	672	21	3	65	21	202	193	572	308	2,100	1,631	48	535	275	99	64	69
E. Hampshire	173	95	0	0	0	0	1	1	16	16	241	191	1	70	59	15	0	3
Franklin	309	238	9	0	1	1	2	2	191	151	1,091	756	5	331	186	15	25	25
E. Franklin	51	42	1	1	12	9	2	2	26	21	298	264	2	68	58	34	19	41
TOTAL	7,717	5,193	135	35	358	269	455	440	1,119	808	15,922	12,108	118	5,858	1,785	455	430	498

Divisions	JUVENILE DELINQUENCY STATISTICS				CHILDREN IN NEED OF SERVICES(CHINS)				CHILDREN IN NEED OF CARE AND PROTECTION		
	Motor Vehicle Complaints	Total Criminal Complaints	Criminal Complaints Disposed of	Appeals To Jury Sessions	Petitions Requested	Petitions Issued	Petitions Disposed of	Appeals To Jury Session	Petitions Received	Petitions Disposed of	Appeals to Jury Session
REGION V											
Central Berkshire	166	719	567	0	45	33	58	0	34	15	0
Adams											
Williamstown	95	441	387	6	32	30	21	0	15	12	0
Northern Berkshire											
Southern Berkshire											
Lee	77	303	99	1	11	10	5	0	11	7	0
Springfield	Juvenile Cases Handled by the Hampden Division of the Juvenile Court Department										
Chicopee	162	699	474	7	43	43	20	8	38	24	0
Eastern Hampden	219	546	661	5	29	13	19	0	6	3	0
Holyoke	105	411	361	29	101	40	17	0	19	6	0
Western Hampden	91	311	214	0	26	9	8	0	25	1	0
Hampshire	257	901	550	11	73	56	80	0	51	28	1
Eastern Hampshire	10	54	23	0	7	9	3	0	6	0	0
Franklin	196	523	547	4	51	31	51	0	23	31	4
Eastern Franklin	40	213	184	1	26	26	21	0	7	5	0
TOTAL	1,418	5,121	4,067	64	444	300	303	8	235	132	5

The Boston Municipal Court Department

During fiscal year 1979, a total of 30,707 criminal cases (based on a count of complaints) were entered in the Boston Municipal Court Department. This is an increase of 4% over the FY '78 level. It is estimated that these 30,707 complaints involved some 13,958 defendants based on the accepted average of 2.2 criminal complaints per defendant.

Of the four general categories of criminal complaints recorded by the Boston Municipal Court Department, 60.6 percent were complaints related to automobile violations, while the remaining 12,111 cases were, with the exception of the 71 Domestic Relations entries, categorized as "other criminal cases". There were no pedestrian violations reported in FY '79. This mix of complaint types follows closely the composition of the FY '78 Boston Municipal Court Department's criminal caseload.

During this twelve month period, the Boston Municipal Court disposed of 17,610 criminal complaints, 9 percent fewer cases than were disposed of in FY '78. This FY '79 figure is equal to 57 percent of the 30,707 new case entries for the year. This represents an addition of 13,097 complaints to the criminal caseload of the BMC pending for action in FY '80. These are complaints against defendants not arrested pending trial.

Of the 17,610 criminal complaints disposed of by the BMC Department, 8,473 or 48 percent were decided on the basis of guilty pleas by the defendant. Pleas of not guilty were entered by defendants to the remaining 9,137 complaints.

For all complaints disposed of by the Boston Municipal Court Department, 6 percent were disposed of by acquittal of the defendants. An additional 22 percent were disposed of through dismissal of charges or by placing of the case on file. The largest portion of complaints, 9,124 or 52 percent, were disposed of through the imposition of fines on the defendants. One hundred and sixty-nine criminal complaints resulted in the imprisonment of the defendant.

Commencing January 1, 1979, the Boston Municipal Court Department was authorized under Chapter 478 of the Acts of 1978 to hold jury-of-six sessions for the purpose of hearing first instance criminal complaints and de novo appeals from the 9 district level courts in Suffolk County.

During the final six months of FY '79, 1,751 complaints against 889 defendants were received by the Boston Municipal Court Department jury session. Of this number, 9 percent or 158 cases were first instance complaints. The remaining 1,593 complaints were received on appeal.

Sixty-two percent of the total complaints received during this six-months were acted on by June 30, 1979. Of these 1,086 cases, 45 were dismissed before trial, 56 appeals cases were withdrawn and a total of 5 cases were removed either by remand to the court of original jurisdiction or by transfer to the Juvenile Court Department.

Of the remaining 980 cases, 187 were defaulted, leaving 793 complaints against 519 defendants that were tried and disposed of by the BMC Department. Six hundred and sixty-five remained active and untried as pending complaints to be heard by the Boston Municipal Court Department during FY '80.

For all cases disposed of by the BMC Department jury sessions during FY '79, 94 percent were disposed of within 90 days.

The format used by the Boston Municipal Court Department to collect statistics on non-criminal business before the court has been expanded for FY '79 to include information on seven case types. While this modification allows for a greater range in the presentation of data for FY '79, comparisons with past years are limited.

The largest portion of non-criminal business before the BMC Department is composed of civil cases. In FY '79, 24,221 civil actions were initiated, an eight percent increase over FY '78, comprising 77 percent of all non-criminal business.

During this period, 15,433 cases were disposed of. Defaults comprised 74.4 percent or 11,485 of these dispositions. This represents a 566 or 5.2 percent increase from 10,919 defaults in FY '78.

Other forms of dispositions included 2,705 civil trials which were commenced in FY '79, a decrease of 5 percent from the previous year. Of the 2,584 trials completed during the year, 96 percent ended with findings for the plaintiff. An additional 1,364 cases were settled by agreement of the involved parties without trial.

In the Appellate Division of the BMC Department, requests for reports on civil matters more than doubled from 18 in FY '78 to 39 in FY '79. During this period, 12 appeals were heard and 10 cases were decided with eight judgments of the court affirmed and two reversed.

BOSTON MUNICIPAL COURT DEPARTMENT

Report on Criminal Business for the Period July 1, 1978 through June 30, 1979

Automobile Violations	18,596
Domestic Relations	71
Pedestrian Violations	0
Other Criminal Cases	12,040
TOTAL	30,707
Not Arrested, Pending for Trial	13,097
Tried by the Court	17,610
Pleaded Guilty	8,473
Pleaded Not Guilty	9,137

Dispositions of Complaints Tried by the Court

Placed on File, Dismissed, etc.	3,822
Defendants Acquitted	1,067
Bound over to Grand Jury	719
Placed on Probation (not including surrenders)	
Straight Probation	665
Imprisonment Probation	899
Fine Probation	393
Defendants Fined	9,124
Fines Appeals	343
Imprisonments	169
Imprisonments Appealed	263
Probation Appealed	30
Imprisonment Probation Appealed	105
Finding of Guilty Appealed	11
Placed on File Appealed	
TOTAL	17,610
Search Warrants Issued	327
Inquests Held	0
Pedestrian Control Tags Issued (J-Walking)	0
Rubbish Disposal and Violation of Laws Regulating the Control of Dogs	5,677

BOSTON MUNICIPAL COURT DEPARTMENT

Report on Jury Session for the Period January 1, 1979 through June 30, 1979

Active Caseload this Period	Defendants	Complaints
Total Complaints Received		1,751
Total Defendants	889	
Total First Instance Cases	70	158
Cases Remanded to Primary Court	2	2
Cases Transferred to Juvenile Court	1	3
Total Cases Completed	519	793
Total Cases Defaulted	93	187
Total Cases Dismissed Before Trial	28	45
Total Appeals Withdrawn	28	56
SUB-TOTAL	671	1,086
Total Cases Untried	218	665 *
TOTAL	889	1,751

Aging of Completed Caseload this Period	
Under 30 days	348
31 to 60 days	285
61 to 90 days	109
91 to 120 days	35
Over 120 days	16
TOTAL	793

* This figure includes 367 so called "juice bar" cases presently being sent to the Supreme Judicial Court on interlocutory appeal.

BOSTON MUNICIPAL COURT DEPARTMENT

FY '79 Non-criminal Statistical Report

Civil Cases	
Entries	24,221
Removed to Superior Court Before Trial	368
Removed to Superior Court After Trial	11
Actions Defaulted	11,485
Dispositions	15,433
Trials	2,705
Transfer Cases	
Received	2,953
Dispositions	407
Mental Commitment Cases	
Petitions Received	35
Petitions Disposed of	35
Summary Process Cases	
Entries	520
Dispositions	399
Small Claims Cases	
Entries	2,409
Dispositions	548
Appeals	63
Supplementary Process Cases	
Entries	1,365
Dispositions	204
Uniform Reciprocal Enforcement of Support Act (URESA)	
Petition initiated locally	4
Petition received from other states	237
Total petitions processed	241

BOSTON MUNICIPAL COURT DEPARTMENT

Appellate Division

Requests for Report		39
Reports allowed		21
Reports dis-allowed		3
Cases Heard		12
Cases Decided		10
Affirmed	8	
Reversed	2	
Cases consolidated under G.L.c. 223, section 2, as amended		8
Appeals to Supreme Judicial Court		2

The Land Court Department

As has been the trend for the past five years, the overall workload of the Land Court Department expanded once again in fiscal year 1979. It should be emphasized that the trial calendar of the court is current. Trials may still be scheduled with little or no delay.

Total cases entered in the Land Court in FY '79 increased by a net 440 cases over the FY '78 figure. The largest increases were in the categories of tax lien cases and actions entered subsequent to land registrations. The total increase of 785 cases in the first four case entry categories was partially offset by a 345 case decline in equity and other, miscellaneous, case type entries.

During FY '79, the Land Court Department disposed of 7,857 cases, an increase of 110 dispositions over FY '78. This disposition figure is equal to just over 87 percent of the 9,005 total new entries for the fiscal year. As a result of the 1,148 case shortfall in dispositions in relation to new entries, the pending caseload in the Land Court Department increased from 13,385 cases pending at the start of FY '79 to 14,533 cases pending at the close of the fiscal year.

A large portion of this increased backlog can be traced to the 574 case surge in tax liens entered in FY '79 over FY '78. While the 1,139 tax lien case dispositions in FY '79 were more than in each of the past five years, these dispositions equaled only 54% of the 2,125 tax lien case entries for the year. This shortfall in tax lien case dispositions in relation to new entries increased by 986 the number of tax lien cases on hand at the close of FY '79. The dramatic increase in this one case type alone accounts for 86% of the increase in backlog for all case types in the Land Court Department. It should be pointed out, however, that many of the tax lien and "soldiers and sailors" foreclosure cases are of a routine nature.

A second increase in activity in the Land Court Department over the past five years has occurred in the area of engineering functions. While decree plans generated by the engineering division have increased by only five over the FY '78 figure, the number of subdivision plans drawn up in FY '79 increased almost by 35% or 190 plans. The total number of plans made by the Land Court Department for this fiscal year, 1,011, the the highest since 1975. Regardless of this, the engineering department of the Land Court remains behind. Great efforts are being made by the Land Court administration to bring the plan production current. Much thought and study is being made to find different and better ways to draft plans.

The Land Court Department statistics indicate a sensitivity of the departmental workload to the current recession/inflation economy and its effect on real property transactions. The trend toward an increasing workload, in general, and an increase in tax lien cases and actions taken subsequent to land registration, in particular, will probably be maintained into the near future.

The pattern of an ever-increasing backlog of new case entries outstripping the capacity of the court department to dispose of them may also continue. In recent years, with resources available to the Land Court Department held constant, increases in the rate of dispositions have resulted from efficiencies incorporated into the system and by dedicated administration personnel. These efficiencies included an educational project designed to aid Registers of Deeds in the performance of their role as Assistant Recorders of the Land Court Department.

For the future, new efficiencies will have to be found and additional resources made available for the Land Court Department to keep abreast of new case entries and prevent a growing backlog.

LAND COURT DEPARTMENT

Report on Court Statistics for the Period July 1, 1978 through June 30, 1979

	Cases Pending on July, 1978	Cases Entered During FY'79	Total Yearly Caseload	Cases Disposed of During FY'79	Cases Pending on June 30, 1979	Change in Pending Caseload		Dispositions as a % of Cases Entered
Land Registrations and Confirmations	1,491	343	1,834	304(1)	1,530	39	3%	88%
Land Registrations Subsequent	52	1,993	2,045	2,008	37	-15	-29%	107%
Tax Liens	3,799	2,125	5,924	1,139	4,785	986	26%	54%
Equity and Miscellaneous	8,043	4,544	12,587	4,406(2)	8,181	138	2%	97%
TOTAL	13,385	9,005	22,390	7,857	14,533	1,148	9%	87%

	FY'78	FY'79	Change No.	Change %
Decree Plans Made	272	277	5	2%
Subdivision Plans Made	544	734	190	35%
TOTAL Plans Made	816	1011	195	24%

(1) Includes 18 cases dismissed by Order of the Court. An additional 42 cases were dismissed by Order of the Court and will be reflected in the report on 1980 court statistics.

(2) Includes 811 cases dismissed under Rule 31 of the Superior Court (1974). See Rule 6 of the Land Court Rules.

LAND COURT DEPARTMENT

Report on Caseload Trends for the Past Five Fiscal Years

	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	%Inc./Dec.
Cases Entered						
Land Registration	390	340	301	260	305	17%
Land Confirmation	44	50	37	27	38	41%
Land Registration, subsequent	1,396	1,581	1,633	1,838	1,993	8%
Tax Lien	1,395	1,292	1,307	1,551	2,125	37%
Equity and Miscellaneous	4,169	4,436	4,744	4,889	4,544	-7%
TOTAL Cases Entered	7,394	7,699	8,022	8,565	9,005	5%
Decree Plans Made	412	308	282	272	277	2%
Subdivisions	927	608	516	544	734	35%
Cases Disposed of by Final Order, Decree or Judgment						
Land Registration	384	318	626	304	270	-11%
Land Confirmation	44	40	33	33	34	3%
Land Registration, subsequent	1,429	1,560	1,670	1,858	2,008	8%
Tax Lien	1,133	1,015	1,025	1,090	1,139	5%
Equity and Miscellaneous	3,033	2,602	3,157	4,462	4,406	-1%
TOTAL Cases Disposed Of	6,023	5,535	6,511	7,747	7,857	1%
Cases Pending at Year End						
Land Registration	1,803	1,862	1,541	1,491	> 1,530	3%
Land Confirmation	---	---	---	---		
Land Registration, subsequent	88	109	72	52	37	-29%
Tax Lien	2,779	3,056	3,338	3,799	4,785	26%
Equity and Miscellaneous	4,195	6,029	7,616	8,043	8,181	8%
TOTAL Cases Pending	8,892	11,056	12,567	13,385	14,533	9%

The Superior Court Department

At the start of the 1979 fiscal year, the Superior Court Department had a pending workload of 103,064 civil and criminal cases. During the course of FY '79, an additional 45,334 cases were commenced bringing the total yearly caseload to 148,398 cases. By disposing of 56,408 cases in FY '79, 24 percent more cases than were commenced during this period, the Superior Court Department was able to reduce the pending caseload at year end to 91,009 cases. This represents an 11,074 or an 11 percent reduction in the department's backlog between July 1, 1978 and June 30, 1979.

Of the 148,398 total cases pending or commenced in the Superior Court Department in FY '79, 118,725 cases, 80 percent, were cases involving civil disputes. This civil workload was composed of 86,332 cases pending as the fiscal year began and 31,793 cases commenced during FY '79. By disposing of 37,372 civil cases, 18 percent more civil cases than were commenced, the Superior Court Department achieved a 5,579 or 7 percent reduction in the pending civil caseload.

Of the 37,372 civil cases disposed of by the Superior Court Department, judgments were entered in 88 percent of the cases. Twelve percent or 4,583 cases were transferred for hearing in the District Court Department under G.L.c. 231, section 102c.

The vast majority of the remaining 32,789 cases, 94 percent, were disposed of by judgment entered before or during trial or hearing. A total of 1,774 cases were disposed of by judgments either after jury verdict (610) or after finding of the court (1,164). The remaining 314 case dispositions resulted from judgments entered after rescript, or post trial or relief from judgment motions.

By analyzing the divisional breakdown of the Superior Court Department civil caseload, it is apparent that the various divisions met with mixed success in reducing civil backlog. However, overall, 9 of 14 divisions of the department disposed of more civil cases than were commenced in their respective divisions. As a result, these 9 divisions reduced their respective pending caseload levels within a range of 5 to 36 percent.

The most dramatic progress in this regard occurred in the Suffolk and Plymouth divisions. Suffolk, the division with the largest pending caseload, disposed of more than twice as many cases as any other division. More significantly, the Suffolk division disposed of 65 percent more cases than were commenced during FY '79, thereby reducing its backlog of civil cases by 4,623 or 15 percent.

In the Plymouth Division, civil case dispositions ran 131 percent over cases commenced for FY'79. As a result, cases pending in Plymouth Superior Court Division dropped by 36 percent from 6,725 on July 1, 1978 to 4,311 on June 30, 1979.

Other divisions which made significant progress in reducing civil backlog include Barnstable, (16%), Franklin, (9%), Hampden, (8%), Nantucket, (9%), Norfolk, (17%), Bristol, (6%) and Hampshire, (5%).

Of the five divisions which underwent an increase in pending civil caseload, three experienced only relatively modest increases. A fourth division, Essex, experienced an eight percent increase in its pending civil caseload. In terms of its total yearly caseload, the 2,308 cases disposed of represents 17 percent of the 13,570 total FY '79 civil caseload. The fifth division, Middlesex, disposed of 4,410 cases, a figure equal to 61 percent of cases commenced. The result was a 16 percent or 2,736 case increase in civil cases pending in the Middlesex Division at the start of fiscal year 1980.

On the criminal side, the Superior Court Department began the fiscal year with 16,732 cases pending. An additional 13,451 cases were commenced during the year bringing the FY '79 criminal caseload based on a count of defendants to a total of 30,273 criminal cases. These 30,273 cases involved 63,639 criminal complaints or an average of 2.1 complaints per defendant.

Of the total 16,732 cases pending on July 1, 1978, 49 percent were pending indictments, while 51 percent were cases pending on appeal.

Of the total 12,541 cases commenced during the fiscal year, 6,906 or 51 percent were defendants brought before the divisions of the Superior Court Department on indictment, 5,145 or 38 percent were defendants on appeal of a previous conviction, and 1,490 or 11 percent were defendants in reactivated cases.

As a whole, the Superior Court Department disposed of 19,036 criminal cases, a figure equal to 63 percent of the total yearly criminal caseload. Nine percent or 1,847 of these cases were disposed of at trial. Thirty-seven percent or 6,981 were cases in which the defendant entered a plea of guilty. The remaining 10,208 cases or 54 percent were disposed of by "other means of disposition".

By disposing of 41 percent more cases that were commenced, the Superior Court Department reduced its pending workload by the end of FY '79 to 11,237 criminal cases. This represents a 5,495 case or 33 percent reduction from the number of criminal cases pending at the end of FY '78.

All fourteen of the Superior Court Department divisions disposed of more cases than were commenced in their respective divisions.

Of the eight divisions with heaviest caseloads (total yearly volumes of 1,000 criminal cases or more), the Worcester Division is in the most current position in relation to its caseload.

While the Worcester Division disposed of only 6 percent more cases than were commenced in FY '79, the division reduced its pending caseload by 52 percent during this twelve month period. More significantly, the Worcester division disposed of 95 percent of its total yearly criminal caseload, finishing the fiscal year with 93 cases pending, 45 cases fewer than its average monthly disposition rate for the year.

Other high volume divisions which made significant progress in FY '79 include: the Middlesex Division which disposed of 81 percent of its total available cases and reduced its pending caseload by 58 percent; the Essex Division which disposed of 68 percent of its total available caseload and reduced its pending criminal cases by 30 percent; the Hampden Division which disposed of 61 percent more cases than were commenced and reduced its criminal cases pending by 23 percent; and the Plymouth Division which disposed of 42 percent more cases than were commenced and reduced pending caseload by year end by 31 percent.

In addition, Suffolk the division with heaviest criminal case volume, reduced backlogged criminal cases by 41 percent by disposing of 58 percent more cases than were commenced in that division during FY '79.

Similar progress was made by the six lower volume court divisions. Reductions in pending caseload ranged from 11 percent in the Barnstable Division to 100 percent in the Nantucket Division. The Berkshire, Franklin and Hampshire Divisions all made significant strides in the reduction of backlogged criminal cases by disposing of cases at twice the rate at which new cases were commenced during FY '79.

The Appellate Division of the Superior Court Department hears appeals on sentences imposed at first instance criminal trials held within the department.

During FY '79, the Appellate Division received 850 appeals which, added to the 827 appeals pending as the year began, brought the total yearly workload to 1,677 appeals of sentence.

Of the 718 appeals processed by the division, 287 or 40 percent were withdrawn by the appellant before action and 385 appeals or 54 percent were dismissed by the court. In all of the remaining 46 appeals, 6 percent of those processed, the decision of the court was to reduce the sentence originally imposed.

Nine hundred and fifty-nine appeals were pending on June 30, 1979. Of this total, 491 or 51 percent were cases removed from the hearing list by the appellant and will be restored to the list only at the request of the appellant.

A number of factors contributed directly and indirectly to the overall reduction in cases, both civil and criminal, pending before the Superior Court Department in FY '79. Among these was the change in criminal appeals procedures established under Chapter 478, the Court Reorganization bill, which authorized de novo appeals to be heard by the court of original jurisdiction as of January 1, 1979. The net effect of this change has been a 46 percent or 3,489 case decline in appeals pending before the Superior Court Department during the final six months of FY'79.

Overall, the trend toward increased currency in the flow of cases in the Superior Court Department is evident. This progress is the result of many factors including changes in court procedures, interdepartmental reassignment of judicial and non-judicial personnel whenever available and the implementation of caseflow management techniques. For the future, the addition of 10 new judges, expansion in the use of modified individual calendar sessions and the development of the regional administration system will strengthen this trend toward currency in the Superior Court Department.

SUPERIOR COURT DEPARTMENT

Report on Criminal Caseload for the Period July 1, 1978 through June 30, 1979

	Cases Pending July 1, 1978	Cases Commenced During FY'79	Total Yearly Caseload	Cases Disposed of During FY'79	Cases Pending June 30, 1979	Change in Pending Caseload No.	%	Dispositions as a % of Cases Commenced
Barnstable	339	372	711	410	301	-38	-11%	110%
Berkshire	321	131	452	284	168	-153	-48%	216%
Bristol	3,041	1,503	4,544	2,088	2,456	-585	-19%	139%
Dukes	12	22	34	26	8	-4	-33%	118%
Essex	1,575	1,868	3,443	2,341	1,102	-473	-30%	125%
Franklin	139	80	219	172	47	-92	-66%	215%
Hampden	3,329	1,254	4,583	2,022	2,561	-768	-23%	161%
Hampshire	313	151	464	309	155	-158	-50%	205%
Middlesex	1,631	1,923	3,554	2,861	693	-938	-58%	148%
Nantucket	9	15	24	24	0	-9	-100%	160%
Norfolk	545	928	1,473	1,034	439	-106	-19%	111%
Plymouth	996	742	1,738	1,054	684	-312	-31%	142%
Suffolk	4,288	2,993	7,281	4,751	2,530	-1758	-41%	158%
Worcester	194	1,559	1,753	1,660	93	-101	-52%	106%
TOTAL	16,732	13,541	30,273	19,036	11,237	-5495	-33%	141%

SUPERIOR COURT DEPARTMENT

Report on Civil Caseload for the Period July 1, 1978 through June 30, 1979

	Cases Pending July 1, 1978	Cases Commenced During FY'79	Total Yearly Caseload	Cases Disposed of During FY'79	Cases Pending June 30, 1979	Change in Pending Caseload No.	%	Dispositions as a % of Cases Commenced
Barnstable	2,609	1,051	3,660	1,461	2,199	-410	-16%	139%
Berkshire	796	498	1,294	479	815	19	2%	95%
Bristol	2,872	2,000	4,872	2,164	2,708	-164	-6%	108%
Dukes	93	55	148	36	112	19	20%	65%
Essex	10,424	3,146	13,570	2,308	11,262	836	8%	73%
Franklin	325	141	466	171	295	-30	-9%	121%
Hampden	3,214	1,639	4,853	1,909	2,944	-270	-8%	116%
Hampshire	802	428	1,230	469	761	-41	-5%	110%
Middlesex	16,885	7,146	24,031	4,410	19,621	2,736	16%	61%
Nantucket	86	41	127	50	77	-9	-9%	122%
Norfolk	7,816	3,473	11,289	4,817	6,472	-1,344	-17%	138%
Plymouth	6,725	1,848	8,573	4,262	4,311	-2,414	-36%	231%
Suffolk	29,927	7,097	37,024	11,720	25,304	-4,623	-15%	165%
Worcester	3,758	3,230	6,988	3,116	3,872	114	3%	96%
TOTAL	86,332	31,793	118,125	37,372	80,753	-5,579	-7%	118%

SUPERIOR COURT DEPARTMENT
APPELLATE DIVISION

For the Period July 1, 1978 through June 30, 1979

As of June 30, 1978 Appeals pending for review	827
During the period July 1, 1978 to June 30, 1979 Appeals entered for review	850
	1,677

Appeals withdrawn	287
Appeals moot	9
Appeals dismissed	359
Appeals dismissed as moot	17
Sentences reduced	46
Sentences increased	0
TOTAL	718

Appeals pending as of June 30, 1979	959

The Housing Court Department

During the fiscal year 1979, the Housing Court Department received 14,441 case entries, a 1,250 case or 9.5 percent increase over FY '78. The major portion, 75.3 percent, of this caseload was composed of criminal and summary process (evictions) actions, while the major portion, 77.2 percent, of the 1,250 case workload increase was composed of criminal and small claims cases. Case entries in the criminal category underwent the largest absolute increase, 511 cases. Small claims actions rose by 31.0 percent, the largest relative increase over the FY '78 caseload levels.

Of the 14,441 case workload of the Housing Court Department, the Boston Division accounted for 9,368 cases or 64.9 percent while the Hampden County Division, which includes the City of Springfield, received 5,073 case entries or 35.1 percent of the total departmental workload.

While the Boston Division's caseload comprises well over half of the total departmental caseload, 65.8 percent of the increase in the FY '79 workload over the FY '78 activity level was composed of Hampden County cases.

Despite a modest 5.9 percent decline in civil cases in Hampden County, a trend maintained for the past five years, surges in summary process and small claims cases brought about the largest overall increase (19.4 percent) in case entries in the division's past five fiscal years.

While summary process cases in the Hampden County Division of the Housing Court have increased steadily over the past five years, small claims have not. Exhibiting a decline during Fiscal Years '75, '76 and '77, small claims actions rose by 23 percent in FY '78 and increased by more than 50 percent in FY '79.

In the Boston Division, a 223 case decline in summary process evictions entries was offset by an equal increase in civil case entries. Small claims cases underwent a modest 14 case increase, to 635 entries, approximately half of the 1,203 small claims cases entered in the Boston Division in FY '76.

The largest absolute increase in entries in the Boston Division took place in the criminal case category. The 413 case rise in criminal entries comprised 97 percent of the total divisional increase in entries for FY '79. This increase brought criminal case entries to 4,634, the highest level of criminal entries for the past five years in Boston, a figure equal to 82 percent of the total departmental criminal caseload.

The steady increase in cases entered in the Housing Court Department over the past three years can be attributed to the growing awareness of the legal community and the public, in general, of the range and timeliness of services available in the department.

Continuing efforts to make the resources of the court department more accessible to the public through mechanisms such as neighborhood court sessions will cause this trend to continue especially in the area of civil and small claims cases. Recent legislation clarifying the jurisdiction of the Hampden Division in civil matters will contribute to reversing the trend toward a declining civil caseload in that division.

HOUSING COURT DEPARTMENT

Comparison of New Entries By Fiscal Year

Housing Court Department	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	Change No.	Change %
Criminal Cases	4,945	5,198	4,742	5,141	5,652	511	9.9%
Summary Process Cases	2,767	3,802	4,199	5,148	5,224	76	1.5%
Small Claims	1,351	2,004	1,545	1,466	1,920	454	31.0%
Civil Cases	1,556	1,684	1,495	1,436	1,645	209	14.6%
TOTAL New Entries	10,619	12,688	11,981	13,191	14,441	1,250	9.5%
Boston Division Housing Court Department							
Criminal Cases	4,212	4,304	3,792	4,221	4,634	413	9.8%
Summary Process Cases	1,627	2,193	2,435	2,901	2,678	-223	-7.7%
Small Claims	403	1,203	857	621	635	14	2.3%
Civil Cases	1,272	1,421	1,248	1,198	1,421	223	18.6%
TOTAL New Entries	7,514	9,121	8,332	8,941	9,368	427	4.8%
Hampden Division Housing Court Department							
Criminal Cases	733	894	950	920	1,018	98	10.7%
Summary Process Cases	1,140	1,609	1,764	2,247	2,546	299	13.3%
Small Claims	948	801	688	845	1,285	440	52.1%
Civil Cases	284	263	247	238	224	-14	-5.9%
TOTAL New Entries	3,105	3,567	3,649	4,250	5,073	823	19.4%

The Probate and Family Court Department

Original entries including all petitions, libels, accounts and complaints filed in the Probate and Family Court Department during fiscal 1979 remained close in terms of total entries and individual case categories to fiscal 1978 levels.

Total case entries declined by 1,803 from the 107,623 case entry level of FY '78 to 105,820 entries in FY '79, a 1.7 percent reduction.

Among individual case entry categories, increases and decreases in volume were mixed, minor and largely offsetting. The larger increases came in the areas of the probating of wills and real estate sales, adoptions, and complaints filed for equitable relief and custody of minors.

Significant decreases occurred in the number of complaints filed for separate support and maintenance, divorces and the probating of administrations and guardianships.

The recent addition of Chapter 209A proceedings to the jurisdiction of the Probate and Family Court Department helped offset declines in other case categories.

During FY '79, there were 1,215 requests under Chapter 209A for temporary restraining orders intended as an emergency measure to prevent abuse among family and household members.

Similiarly, the case entry levels for the divisions of the Probate and Family Court Department followed a mixed pattern of increased and decreased volumes. Five divisions, including three of the four highest volume divisions, Worcester, Norfolk and Suffolk, experienced reductions of case entries. Essex, the fifth highest volume division, saw no change in the level of entries between the two years. Finally, the remaining eight divisions underwent minor to moderate case entry volume increases for FY '79. In short, case entry level fluctuations for the divisions of the Probate and Family Court Department for FY '79 relative to FY '78 were limited in both range and effect.

Overall, the Probate and Family Court Department handled 134,751 contested and uncontested matters during FY '79. Uncontested matters comprised 104,816 or 77.8 percent of all matters brought before the court. By and large, these were made up of uncontested divorces, motions and probate proceedings.

The remaining 22.2 percent of matters acted on by the divisions of the Probate and Family Court Department were contested actions. Fifty-eight percent of these proceedings concerned motions contested by the litigants. An additional 32 percent or 9,308 of these contested matters involved divorce and contempt proceedings.

In fiscal 1979, the Office of the Administrative Justice of this department made 1,165 out-of-county assignments because of judge disqualification, vacation, illness or case backlog. Two recall justices, the Judges of Dukes, Nantucket and Hampshire Counties also receive out-of-county assignments on a regular basis and provide extra judicial manpower Almost every section of the state benefits from the designated sittings of the five justices.

Fees collected for actions originated in the Probate and Family Court Department increased by 6 percent from the FY '78 level of $2,380,049.72 to $2,524,906.63 in FY '79.

While there were modest fluctuations in the levels of fees collected by the fourteen divisions, collection totals by case category indicate a 4 percent increase in Probate fee collections, a 9 percent increase in fees collected in divorce related matters and a 4 percent increase in certificate and copy fees.

In fiscal year 1979, the Probate and Family Court Department through the family service officers of that department collected a total of $14,248,778.43 for the Department of Public Welfare (the Commonwealth) and for private litigants. Of that amount, $4,517,127.51 or 32% was collected for the Department of Public Welfare and $9,731,650.92 was collected for private litigants. The total amount collected during fiscal year 1979 was 22% more than the $11,722,759.65 figure collected in FY '78.

This system of collecting money for the Commonwealth and for private litigants was developed and instituted in the Probate and Family Court Department in April, 1974. Since that time, support collections have totaled $41,833,986.69. This amount represents $13,899,821.88 collected for the Massachusetts Department of Public Welfare and $27,934,164.81 collected for private litigants.

In the five years the program has been in existence, support collections have risen dramatically, from $2,870,247.13 collected in 1974 to $14,248,778.43 collected during fiscal year 1979.

To the Commonwealth of Massachusetts these support collections represent much needed revenue which helps reduce the amount of money expended for welfare payments, thereby lifting some of the burden off the taxpayer's shoulders. To the many private litigants, support collections represent a means by which to avoid welfare and to remain independent and self-supporting, while at the same time, sparing the taxpayer additional monetary burden.

PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT DEPARTMENT

	FY'78	FY'79	Change No.	Change %
Original Entries	107,623	105,820	-1,803	-1.7%
Probate				
Administrations	10,711	10,592	-119	-1.1%
Wills	13,550	14,024	474	3.5%
Trustreeships	960	951	-9	-.9%
Guardianships	2,707	2,618	-89	-3.3%
Accounts and Distributions	22,062	22,062	----	----
Petitions	243	259	16	6.6%
Real Estate Sales	3,303	3,456	153	4.6%
Equitable Relief Complaints Filed	1,354	1,363	9	.6%
Separate Support and Maintenance Complaints Filed	4,238	3,458	-780	-18.4%
Desertions and Living-Apart Complaints Filed	81	90	9	11%
Custody of Minors Complaints Filed	282	304	22	7.8%
Divorce Original Entries	25,465	25,144	-321	-1.3%
Adoptions	2,557	2,852	295	11.5%
Chapter 209A Petitions (abuse prevention)	N/A	1,215	----	----

PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT DEPARTMENT

Fiscal Year 1979

	Barnstable	Berkshire	Bristol	Dukes	Essex	Franklin	Hampden	Hampshire	Middlesex	Nantucket	Norfolk	Plymouth	Suffolk	Worcester	Total
Original Entries	4,257	2,588	8,692	350	10,890	1,815	7,547	2,177	22,660	235	13,090	6,789	10,903	13,827	105,820
FY '78 Original Entries	3,906	2,886	7,923	405	10,890	1,691	7,415	1,549	22,222	224	14,793	6,517	12,887	14,315	107,623
Change - Number	351	-298	769	-55	-----	124	132	628	438	11	-1703	272	-1984	-488	-1803
Percentage	8.9	-10	9.7	-13.5	----	7	1.7	40.5	1.9	4.9	-11.5	4	-15	-3	-1.7
Probate Decrees															
Administrations filed	195	218	1,102	25	803	208	1,007	271	1,428	13	1,324	859	1,627	1,512	10,592
Wills filed	629	415	1,269	114	1,525	225	1,015	272	2,830	29	1,740	675	1,220	2,061	14,024
Trusteeships filed	47	52	52	6	127	10	44	15	235	4	161	60	84	51	951
Guardianships (minor) filed	30	31	86	1	168	18	186	26	140	0	119	148	169	137	1,259
Guardianships (men. ill) filed	35	5	92	3	134	16	175	69	271	5	114	132	164	144	1,359
Accounts & Distributions filed	837	791	1,089	51	2,782	456	2,046	482	5,728	88	3,298	1,069	1,414	1,931	22,062
Partitions filed	14	10	27	14	43	6	10	10	33	1	29	24	9	29	259
Real Estate Sales Filed	130	79	321	11	487	43	207	104	891	4	401	209	197	372	3,456
Equitable Relief															
Complaints filed	65	47	101	7	187	17	88	57	247	4	200	138	139	66	1,363
Separate Support & Maintenance															
Petitions filed	180	25	567	1	611	5	98	6	649	1	401	407	292	215	3,458
Desertions & living apart filed	0	1	67	0	0	0	0	21	0	1	0	0	0	0	90
Custody of Minors															
Petitions filed	55	7	14	1	83	0	4	2	0	2	5	35	67	29	304
Divorce															
Original entries	873	588	2,269	75	2,905	391	2,119	649	5,727	36	1,993	1,998	2,035	3,486	25,144
Adoptions	107	51	176	5	355	27	287	60	583	5	252	249	283	412	2,852
Chapter 209A petitions filed	57	3	16	1	38	23	185	17	129	2	46	141	325	232	1,215

MONTHLY TRIAL LIST REPORT

Fiscal 1979 Totals
July 1,1978 - June 30, 1979

	Barnstable	Berkshire	Bristol	Dukes	Essex	Franklin	Hampden	Hampshire	Middlesex	Nantucket	Norfolk	Plymouth	Suffolk	Worcester	Total
Divorces, contested	122	142	199	4	309	300	1,006	121	756	3	327	296	476	1,213	5,274
Divorces, uncontested	520	503	1,843	51	1,675	94	803	425	3,427	26	1,747	1,236	1,476	1,562	15,388
Separate Support, contested	15	8	40	0	13	10	28	5	28	0	115	171	62	24	519
Separate Support, uncontested	10	12	406	23	362	2	26	8	72	1	249	180	237	35	1,623
Contempts, contested	166	97	36	4	71	70	803	68	1,124	8	438	107	452	590	4,034
Contempts, uncontested	79	70	414	5	67	11	198	139	669	4	642	31	1,034	254	3,617
Modifications, contested	44	77	53	1	21	67	491	63	209	3	129	23	68	307	1,556
Modifications, uncontested	12	67	235	1	75	9	127	60	189	1	100	43	35	140	1,094
Equity, contested	15	4	0	5	13	16	28	18	72	3	38	44	34	19	309
Equity, uncontested	11	13	99	4	31	1	29	23	49	2	114	40	82	49	547
Motions, contested	499	165	682	32	3,355	247	1,432	210	3,851	29	2,147	2,632	1,064	985	17,330
Motions, uncontested	1,077	176	3,131	119	5,944	146	1,707	917	5,874	23	4,166	3,254	4,300	458	31,292
Adoptions, contested	14	4	0	0	12	2	7	3	10	0	5	19	23	0	99
Adoptions, uncontested	85	39	176	5	325	28	187	60	400	6	247	230	261	371	2,420
Contested Probate	46	15	32	3	241	17	26	37	166	2	71	61	90	7	814
Uncontested Probate	1,670	1,109	3,270	235	3,345	1,110	3,732	1,023	10,445	113	8,722	3,287	6,069	4,705	48,835
Appointment of Masters	1	3	6	1	28	0	0	0	612	1	121	27	324	8	1,132
Masters' Reports Filed	3	5	1	0	27	0	0	0	58	5	63	16	275	8	461
Total contested matters	921	512	1,042	49	4,035	729	3,821	525	6,216	48	3,270	3,353	2,269	3,145	29,935
Total uncontested matters	3,464	1,989	9,574	443	11,824	1,401	6,809	2,655	21,125	176	15,987	8,301	13,494	7,574	104,816

COLLECTIONS MADE BY FAMILY SERVICE OFFICES

Fiscal 1979

Division	Litigants	Mass. DPW
Barnstable	$ 307,686.81	$ 186,975.69
Berkshire	0	0
Bristol	274,882.06	81,400.42
Dukes	0	800.00
Essex	895,779.44	240,468.01
Franklin	3,198.75	151,256.56
Hampden	1,181,853.60	1,071,432.61
Hampshire	22,601.69	223,277.98
Middlesex	3,155,615.32	1,045,938.92
Nantucket	5,200.00	1,330.00
Norfolk	1,059,996.47	304,255.04
Plymouth	1,541,227.57	529,817.95
Suffolk	528,920.66	223,026.23
Worcester	754,688.55	457,148.10
TOTAL	$ 9,731,650.92	$ 4,517,127.51

GRAND TOTAL: $ 14,248,778.43

FEES COLLECTED

For the period July 1, 1978 through June 30, 1979

	Probates	Divorces	Certificates and Copies	Total
Barnstable	$ 42,279.00	$ 26,950.00	$ 27,281.40	$ 96,510.40
Berkshire	30,167.75	28,082.00	13,726.95	71,976.70
Bristol	68,537.25	84,116.00	39,879.17	192,532.42
Dukes	4,295.00	2,196.00	3,098.25	9,589.25
Essex	115,412.75	107,886.00	63,971.86	287,270.61
Franklin	15,960.00	13,338.00	6,116.75	35,414.75
Hampden	78,450.00	81,893.00	37,740.00	198,083.00
Hampshire	24,643.00	23,940.00	11,662.95	60,245.95
Middlesex	225,228.00	206,948.00	130,298.75	562,474.75
Nantucket	2,740.50	1,292.00	1,724.55	5,757.05
Norfolk	123,798.00	84,252.00	69,210.75	277,260.75
Plymouth	56,500.00	74,901.00	35,375.50	166,776.50
Suffolk	120,920.25	85,158.00	63,801.15	269,879.40
Worcester	97,786.00	136,464.00	56,965.10	291,215.10
TOTAL	$1,006,717.50	$957,416.00	$560,853.13	$2,524,986.63

The Juvenile Court Department

In general, the volume of work of the Juvenile Court Department in FY '79 increased over the FY '78 department workload level.

Judicial determinations which include all matters concerning all cases brought for decision before the court increased significantly by 10,958 determinations or 19 percent over the FY '78 figure. Increases were registered in the Boston, Bristol and Springfield Divisions, while a modest 348 or 5 percent decrease in judicial determinations was recorded for the Worcester Division.

Complaints filed increased in all categories of case types with the exception of juveniles alleged to have committed the more serious criminal offenses and bound over to the Superior Court Department to be tried as adults.

The number of individuals represented in the juvenile criminal category, predominatly males in FY '78 and all males in FY '79, declined dramatically by 71 percent in the past fiscal year. Three divisions, Boston, Springfield and Worcester, experienced decreases in the number of individuals represented in this category, while the Bristol Division recorded an increase of four male juveniles so charged.

For the remaining case type categories, increases of varying degrees were recorded for the department as a whole. The number of juveniles against whom charges of delinquency were filed remained nearly constant over the past two years with only a .4 percent increase in FY '79. In addition, the mix of male juveniles (87 percent) and female juveniles (13 percent) represented in FY '79 follows almost exactly the 86 percent male - 14 percent female mix of juveniles represented in delinquency cases in FY '78.

The largest increase for all juvenile case types was in the category of Care and Protection cases (Chapter 51A Petitions) in FY '78, 348 complaints involving 612 children were filed in the Juvenile Court Department. In FY '79, Care and Protection complaints increased 64 percent to 572 and juveniles represented increased by 82 percent to 1,116.

In terms of individual divisions, the Boston Division experienced a significant decline in complaints issued in both Juvenile Criminal and Juvenile Delinquency cases. Offsetting this decline were dramatic increases of over 200 percent in both CHINS and Care and Protection cases. As a result, Judicial Determinations in the Boston Division also increased by 2,657 determinations or 16.5 percent.

For the Bristol Division, there were increases in complaints issued for all case types with the exception of CHINS cases which experienced a 14.5 percent decline in FY '79. Judicial determinations in FY '79 increased by 30 percent, the largest relative increase over FY '78 of any of the four Juvenile Court Department Divisions.

The Springfield Division experienced declines in four case types. Complaints issued were down from FY '78 levels in Juvenile Criminal, CHINS, Care and Protection and Adult cases. In terms of absolute numbers of juveniles and adults brought before the court, the declines were minor. Judicial determinations increased by 12 percent.

Similiary, the Worcester Division recorded reductions in the number of Criminal and Delinquency complaints issued. Although there was a significant increase in Care and Protection complaints issued in Worcester in FY '79, overall Judicial Determinations were down 5 percent from FY '78 for this division.

JUVENILE COURT DEPARTMENT

CASE TYPES	FY '79 Males	FY '79 Females	Individuals Represented FY '78	Individuals Represented FY '79	Change No.	Change %
Juvenile Criminal	24	0	82	24	-54	-71
Juvenile Delinquent	10,025	1,525	11,505	11,550	45	.4
Children in Need of Services (CHINS)	921	916	1,298	1,837	539	42
TOTAL	10,970	2,441	12,885	13,411	526	4
Adults	17	19	28	36	8	29

CARE AND PROTECTION

	FY'78	FY'79	Change No.	Change %
Complaints	348	572	224	64
Children Represented	612	1,116	504	82

JUDICIAL DETE[illegible]NATIONS	FY'78	FY'79	Change No.	Change %
	52,122	68,080	10,958	19

APPELLATE DIVISION
JUVENILE COURT DEPARTMENT

CASE TYPES	FY'78	FY'79	Change No.	Change %
Judicial Determinations	150	318	168	112
CHINS	2	1	-1	-50
Care and Protection	20	88	68	340
TOTAL	172	407	235	137

BOSTON DIVISION

CASE TYPES	FY '79 Male	FY '79 Female	Totals FY '78	Totals FY '79	Change No.	Change %
Juvenile Criminal	15	0	46	15	-31	-67
Juvenile Delinquent	1,232	501	2,230	1,733	-497	-22
CHINS	397	362	201	759	558	278
TOTAL	1,644	863	2,477	2,507	30	1
Adults	4	16	14	20	6	43

CARE AND PROTECTION

	FY '78	FY '79	Change No.	Change %
Complaints	129	309	180	140
Children Represented	182	619	437	240

JUDICIAL DETERMINATIONS	FY'78	FY '79	Change No.	Change %
	16,109	18,766	2,657	16.5

BRISTOL DIVISION

CASE TYPES	FY '79 Male	FY '79 Female	Totals FY '78	Totals FY '79	Change No.	Change %
Juvenile Criminal	4	0	0	4	4	400
Juvenile Delinquent	5,526	416	4,547	5,942	1,395	31
CHINS	288	167	532	455	-77	114.5
TOTAL	5,818	583	5,079	6,401	1,322	26
Adults	13	3	12	16	4	33

CARE AND PROTECTION

	FY '78	FY'79	Change No.	Change %
Complaints	79	112	33	42
Children Reprsented	168	227	59	35

JUDICIAL DETERMINATIONS	FY '78	FY'79	Change No.	Change %
	24,920	32,495	7,575	30

SPRINGFIELD DIVISION

CASE TYPES

	FY'79		Totals		Change	
	Male	Female	FY '78	FY '79	No.	%
Juvenile Criminal	3	0	6	3	-3	-50
Juvenile Delinquent	2,179	350	2,370	2,529	159	7
CHINS	110	163	274	273	-1	-.4
TOTAL	2,292	513	2,650	2,805	155	6
Adults	0	0	2	0	-2	-100

CARE AND PROTECTION

	FY'78	FY'79	Change No.	Change %
Complaints	111	100	-11	-10
Children Represented	202	156	-46	-23

JUDICIAL DETERMINATIONS	FY'78	FY'79	Change No.	Change %
	9,206	10,280	1,074	12

WORCESTER DIVISION

CASE TYPES

	FY'79		Totals		Change	
	Male	Female	FY '78	FY '79	No.	%
Juvenile Criminal	2	0	30	2	-28	-93
Juvenile Delinquent	1,088	258	2,358	1,346	-1,012	-43
CHINS	126	224	291	350	59	20
TOTAL	1,216	482	2,949	1,698	-1,251	-42
Adults	0	0	N/A	0	0	0

CARE AND PROTECTION

	FY'78	FY'79	Change No.	Change %
Complaints	29	51	22	76
Children Represented	60	114	54	90

JUDICIAL DETERMINATIONS	FY'78	FY'79	Change No.	Change %
	6,887	6,539	-348	-5

Fiscal Appendix

JUDICIARY

TOTAL FY'80 APPROPRIATION	$122,033,510
Supreme Judicial Court	5,782,938
Appeals Court	1,383,767
District Attorneys	15,254,736
	$ 22,412,441

TOTAL COURT APPROPRIATION	$ 99,621,069	
Office of the Chief Administrative Justice	675,000	.7%
Trial Court Operating Budget*	10,748,643	10.8%
Superior Court Department	22,914,996	23.0%
District Court Department	42,818,851	34.0%
Probate and Family Court Department	8,921,479	9.0%
Land Court Department	1,273,414	1.3%
Boston Municipal Court Department	3,604,895	3.6%
Housing Court Department	869,992	.8%
Juvenile Court Department	3,536,467	3.5%
Commissioner of Probation	1,257,362	1.3%
Emergency Reserve Account	3,000,000	3.0%

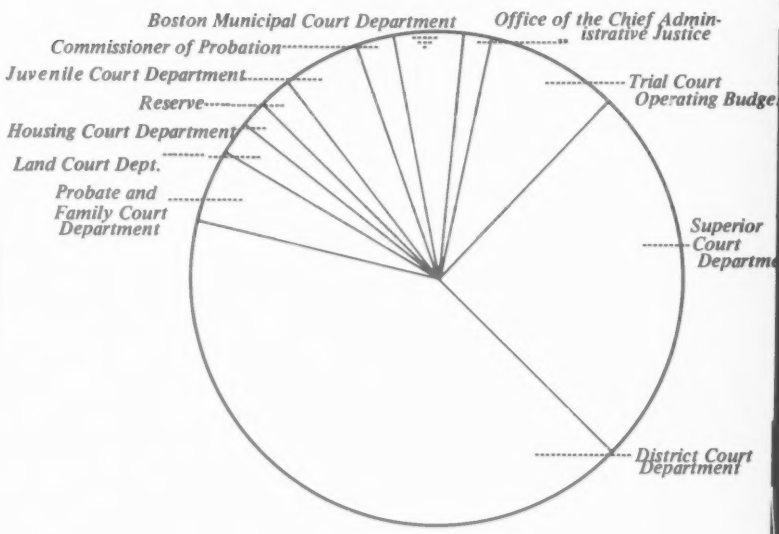
*The Trial Court Operating Budget includes:

Salaries and expenses for recall Justices	500,000
LEAA Matching Funds	70,632
Law Libraries	956,985
Rental of Court Facilities	5,754,184
Witness Fees	500,000
Printing	1,239,527
Library Materials	368,515
Rental of Equipment	219,314
Repairs of Equipment	1,089,486
TOTAL	$10,748,643

FY'80 Budgetary Data

STATE OPERATING BUDGET

TRIAL COURT APPROPRIATION



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